

Mid-term Review of “Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC)” Project



Atlas Project ID/Award ID :00136290
Atlas Output ID/Quantum Project ID :00127244
PIMS: 6445
GEF ID: 10394

Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency: Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Mid-term Review Report

August-November 2024

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Mr. Bruce Chapman (Team Expert)

Mid-term Review of the project

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Project Starting Date: 19 May 2022

Project End Date: 19 May 2027

Evaluation Team

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Staff and stakeholders from all 14 countries related to the project “Mainstreaming Climate Change and Ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC” were very supportive and with their cooperation we were able to produce this report. Everyone shared their time and ideas to make this review process a success. Many people were consulted – and the names of all who contributed are included in the list of names annexed to this report. All questions asked were answered and all the points raised were discussed. The project team helped in coordinating and arranging the meetings and field visits.

We are very thankful to the Regional Programme Management Specialist Ms. Katri Kivioja, Regional Technical Advisor Mr. Sofiane Mahjoub and Program Management & Oversight Specialist Mr. Ugyen Dorji of UNDP BRH providing information about the project. Thanks also goes to Director of FFA Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen, Deputy Director General FFA Dr. Pio Manoa and Project Manager Ms. Lisa Buchanan for sharing information and explaining various issues related to project. We would further like to thank experts and key persons from partner organizations for openly sharing their observations and providing valuable suggestions.

The views expressed in this report are intended to offer an overview of, and some of the lessons learned from this Project. We have tried to balance our thoughts and to offer fair perspectives of what was observed and learned from people far more knowledgeable about the Project and its context than we will ever be.

And finally, we are very happy to learn with great admiration the dedication and enthusiasm that so many people from the fourteen project countries bring to their work in addressing issues related to the Pacific Ocean Ecosystem and its territories for the ocean-ecosystem, sustainable harvest of fish and ecosystem-based Fisheries management. We would like to thank them and wish them every success in their continuing endeavors.

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November 2024

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ACRONYMS AND TERMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub of UNDP
CCMs	Contracting and Cooperating Members
CDS	Catch Documentation Scheme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COVID	Coronavirus disease
CLAW	Regional Climate Awareness Workshop
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CWP	Country Web Page
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EM	Electronic Monitoring
ER	Electronic Reporting
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessments
ET	Evaluation Team
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FIMS	Fisheries Information Management System
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GFEW	Global Fisheries Enforcement Workshop
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
iTRP	Interim Target Reference Point
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LDC	Least Developed Country
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MCSWG	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
mt	Metric tonnes
MTR	Mid-term Review

NCE	Nature, Climate and Energy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NTMDP	National Tuna Management and Development Plan
OFMP 2	Oceanic Fisheries Management Project 2
OFMP 3	Oceanic Fisheries Management Project 3
PB	Project Board
PCCOS	Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science
PEUMP	Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PIRFO	Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer
PIOFMP	Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project
PITIA	Pacific Island Tuna Industry Association
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNAO	Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office
PNA	Parties to Nauru Agreement
PPR	Project Performance Report
ProDoc	Project Document
PROPER	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Resilience
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
PSM	Port State Measures
QA	Question Answer
RBAB	UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
RF	Results Framework
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
ROC	Regional Observer Coordination Workshop
SAP	Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Living Oceanic Resources by the Small Island Developing States of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
SC20	20 th meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social and Environment Standards
SESP	Social and Environment Screening Procedure
SPA	South Pacific albacore
SPC	Pacific Community
SPG	South Pacific Group
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference

TRP	Target Reference Point
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
USP	University of the South Pacific
VDS	Vessel Days Scheme
WCP	World Climate Programme
WCPF	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Report presents the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project *Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC)*. The review was carried out over the period July to November 2024. The project is funded by GEF and implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO), and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The project is the third in a sequence of projects supporting sustainable management of fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and is known by most project participants as the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Project 3 (OFMP3).

1.1 Project Information Table

Table 1: Project Information:

Project Title	“Mainstreaming Climate Change and Ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC”		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	6445	PIF Approval Date:	19 December 2019
GEF Project ID (PMIS #):	10394	CEO Endorsement Date:	24 January 2022
Atlas Project ID/Award ID: Atlas Output ID/Quantum project ID:	00136290 00127244	Project Document (ProDoc) Signature Date (date project began):	19 May 2022
Country(ies):	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Inception Workshop date:	19 October 2022
Region:	Asia and Pacific	LPAC date	20 August 2021
Focal Area:	International Waters	Midterm Review completion date:	July-October 2024
GEF Focal Area Strategic Objective:	1 Strengthening the Blue Economy 2 Improve management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)	Planned closing date:	May2027
Trust Fund [indicate GEF TF, LDCF,SCCF, NPIF]:	GEF Trust Fund		
Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner:	Forum Fisheries Agency		
Other execution partners:			
Project Financing	<i>at CEO endorsement (US\$)</i>	<i>at Mid-term Review (US\$)</i>	
[1] GEF financing:	10,000,000	3,592,557.90	
[2] UNDP contribution:	600,000	188,222.96	
[3] Governments of 14 countries	36,104,130	13,655,294	
[4] Others	56,516,538	28,954,448.40	
[5] Total Co-financing	93,220,668	42,797,965.36	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1+5]	103,220,668	46,390,523.26	

1.2 Project Description

2. The Pacific Ocean provides food, livelihoods, income, trade and other resources for the peoples of the Pacific Islands region. The region's 22 small island nations are critically dependent on the resources of their coastal areas and large marine exclusive economic zones (EEZ).
3. A precursor project (OFMP2) developed a Strategic Action Programme¹ (SAP) to address the primary sources and causes of transboundary impacts on oceanic fisheries in the region, The SAP highlighted key issues for fisheries management (including, management measures, compliance, and product traceability) as well as the increasing concern about the implications of climate change on ecosystem functioning and spatial distribution of key tuna and highly migratory fish stocks. The SAP provides the basis for a roadmap of actions to address these transboundary problems and issues.
4. OFMP3 project was developed to support the SAP roadmap through three objectives:
Objective A: Improvements and Strengthening of Management Strategies and Mechanisms for the Ecosystem and Its Living Marine Resources.
Objective B: Strengthening and expanding the scientific knowledge base to support improved understanding and management of the ecosystem and its living marine resources in the WCPFC area.
Objective C: Capacity Building and Training for Improved Management of the Ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources in the WCPFC Area.
5. Total project duration is 5 years and the total budget, including co-financing, is US\$103,220,668, of which US\$10,000,000 is funded through the GEF Trust Fund.

1.3 PROJECT PROGRESS SUMMARY

6. Selected key achievements under the project are described below:
 - Beneficiaries: FFA figures show that the midterm target of reaching a cumulative total of 26,000 beneficiaries has been achieved (52% male and 48% female).
 - Sustainable management: The project has directly contributed to the sustainable management of skipjack tuna, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore.
 - Harvest strategies: A sustainable harvest strategy and associated targets and limits were adopted for skipjack tuna in December 2022. Adoption of a harvest strategy and associated targets and reference points for a second tuna stock, South Pacific albacore, is on track and scheduled to be adopted by the WCPFC in December 2024. SPC has also prepared information on Target Reference Points (TRPs) for yellowfin and bigeye.
 - Climate change: An FFA Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Implementation Plan have been adopted by FFA members. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) agreed to develop a Climate Change Work Plan, as well as including climate change as a standing agenda item for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

¹ Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Living Oceanic Resources by the Small Island Developing States of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

1.4 MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table

7. A full assessment of the achievement of outcomes and mid-term targets is provided in Annex 6.14. Table 2 below summarizes the achievements and MTR ratings for the project.

Table 2: MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for “Mainstreaming Climate Change and Ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC”

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: Satisfactory	90% of the project activities targeted for the Mid-term point have been accomplished. It is also expected that the remaining few activities of the Mid-term point will also be completed during the full project term, together with the end of project targets.
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: Satisfactory	Most of the MTR targets have been accomplished, the exception being that the target of re-drafting National Tuna Management and Development Plans (NTMDPs) which has not been achieved in full.
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: Moderately Satisfactory	Observer e-reporting coverage is below the target level. The testing of FAD designs is ongoing; designs are not yet ‘routinely implemented’ outside the trials. All other mid-term targets under this outcome have been achieved.
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: Satisfactory	Adaptive management has been demonstrated effectively through implementation of Tuna Management Plans in 43% of participating countries (target 50%). Near shore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics (e.g. tuna) is occurring in all 14 participating countries, exceeding the target level of five countries. All other Mid-term targets were achieved.
	Outcome 4 Achievement Rating: Moderately Satisfactory	Partnerships for expanding eco-labelling are still in development. Capturing of lessons and best practices in an overall report on sustainable fisheries management in the Pacific Islands region is in process but not completed. All other Mid-term targets of this outcome have been completed.
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Rating: Satisfactory	The management and governance structure is working effectively. Adaptive management was observed in addressing the limitation of observers.
Sustainability	Rating: Likely	The results of the project are relevant to participating countries’ needs, and countries have committed to continue the results beyond the project life. Similarly, FFA has several funding sources for continuing its activities which will also help to make results of this project sustainable.

1.5 Summary /Conclusion

8. The project has accomplished most of the activities targeted for the mid-term point (about 90% MTR targets met). A key enabler of these achievements has been the contribution the project has made toward strengthening the collaboration between the FFA Member states. As intended under the project design, OFMP3 aimed to intervene in four areas: awareness generation, capacity enhancement, improvement of monitoring systems and promoting ecosystem-based sustainable management. The project supported key issues underpinning sustainable management in the WCPO. This includes development and adoption of sustainable harvest strategies, mainstreaming climate change in fisheries management strategies, training staff from fisheries sectors to enhance their capacity, and supporting scientific study of climate change impacts.
9. The project has encouraged evidence-based planning through supporting the redrafting of National Tuna Management and Development Plans (NTMDPs) for many Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and developed partnerships with several institutions to accomplish activities of the project. The project has also supported the introduction of e-reporting and tools to improve vessel and catch tracking / traceability.
10. The project has been underpinned by good science and a technical approach of good caliber, and this has helped to maintain the technical standard of the interventions. The project has faced some challenges, for example relating to a decrease in the number of observers. This issue was addressed through supporting a certificate IV Training and Assessment course (coded CET4) with the help of the University of South Pacific (USP).
11. Overall the Review found that the project has been well implemented, with activities delivered to a high quality, supported by comprehensive reporting of activities and achievements.
12. To make the outcomes and interventions sustainable, the project will need the continued support of FFA, project partners and the governments of the project countries. The project's capacity enhancement activities, along with the establishment of a coordination forum will also help in making outcomes of the project sustainable.

1.6 Recommendations

Rec. No.	MTR Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
Relevance/Up scaling			
1.	Lessons learned (positive or negative) from this project should be documented and shared with wide range of audiences to extend benefits from the project and utilize learnings for other projects.	UNDP BRH/FFA	Immediately after MTR.
2.	It is recommended in all future projects of UNDP, that the reporting provisions, Terms of Reference (ToR) of staff, and salaries should be discussed with the implementing partners before signing the contract. Similarly, FFA should also make itself fully aware of all UNDP or GEF requirements before signing the project contract. FFA should also make such issues clear to other partners that may sub-contract various activities, and therefore be subject to the same UNDP or GEF conditions.	UNDP BRH/FFA	In Future projects.

3.	<p>There is a need to strengthen gender and cross-cutting aspects of the project. There should be a program to build female leadership in the fisheries sector through enhancing capacity. Programs to strengthen the economic status of women should also be implemented to increase economic self-reliance.</p> <p>The gender action plan analyzed gender violence in all project countries. Based on this, the project should also promote advocacy and awareness programs to avoid gender violence and exploitation in the fisheries sector.</p>	<p>The Project Management Unit (PMU) should recommend activities and seek approval from SC to submit to GEF through UNDP BRH.</p>	<p>Immediately after the MTR.</p>
Design			
4.	<p>Indicators should be clearly defined i.e. they should be SMART². It is recommended that the indicators of the result framework be reviewed and revised as follows:</p> <p>Indicator 1: Training of staff is mentioned but on what subject is not clear.</p> <p>Similarly, the target number of beneficiaries is mentioned but it is not clear whether the target is including the baseline number or in addition to the baseline.</p> <p>Indicator 3: The MTR and end of project targets are in different units; the MTR target is Adoption of sustainable Harvest Strategies and associated Targets and Limits in at least 2 Tuna zones out of 4, while the end of project target is 3600million hectares (ha). Either the MTR target should also be area of Tuna zone in ha, or the end of project target should refer to the 4 Tuna zones.</p> <p>Indicator 6: Indicators related to Policy development and application do not specify subjects.</p> <p>Indicator 7: The target does not specify in which subject staff should be trained. Similarly, the target does not indicate whether the representation in the training will represent each of the project countries, and also does not clarify by what number per country.</p> <p>In addition, the project document does not clarify on what basis the MTR or end of project target number or % are calculated. It is recommended to clarify the basis of calculating the target number or percentage.</p> <p>Indicator 9: The targets involve a complex set of achievements in different technical areas – it would be helpful to ‘disentangle’ these for clarity.</p> <p>Indicator 10: Need to clarify, e.g. to reflect that national licensing is not within the control of the project or FFA.</p>	<p>PMU should work with M&E expert to suggest to UNDP and GEF the clarifications that are most urgently needed across all indicators and use them as basis for approval.</p>	<p>Immediately after MTR</p>
Implementation/Management			
5.	<p>A few activities are behind the target level. Hence, it is recommended that they should be completed as early as possible to enable achievement of all targets by project completion.</p>	<p>FFA/PMU</p>	<p>In the second half of the project</p>
6.	<p>Due to long administrative formalities, money disbursement has been slow in some cases. Hence it is recommended that the UNDP BRH should address this issue and assure that the delay in transfer of funds will not affect implementation of project activities. UNDP should also communicate with the FFA/PMU to discuss these issues to resolve the problem.</p>	<p>UNDP BRH</p>	<p>Immediately after MTR</p>
7.	<p>The position of climate change expert in FFA is currently vacant. There is need for more climate change expertise to study impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems to analyze loss and</p>	<p>FFA</p>	<p>Initiate immediately after MTR</p>

² SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Bound

	damage. It is recommended that this position be filled to provide additional resources in this field.		
8.	Few countries have their own labelling or certifying mechanism. FFA should consider working with those countries to assess the viability of certification at national or sub-regional level.	FFA	Initiate immediately after MTR
9.	The activities of Component 1 are under-budgeted while there is surplus in Component 2 (due to conducting programs jointly with other partners). It is recommended that the PMU should prepare a cost analysis and make recommendations (with justifications) to PSC for endorsement and subsequent GEF approval through UNDP BRH.	PMU	Initiate immediately after MTR.
10.	PITIA is no longer a functional entity as envisaged at project design. Activities identified for delivery through PITIA are being conducted with the help of other projects. Hence, it is recommended that PMU should analyze costs and alternative uses for this funding and make recommendations to the PSC for endorsement and subsequent GEF approval through UNDP BRH.	PMU	Immediately after MTR.
10.	Implementation of endorsed National Tuna Management and Development Plans is important for sustainability and ensuring national benefits. Hence, FFA/PMU should coordinate (advocate) with the relevant ministry of participating countries to implement endorsed Plans.	FFA/PMU	Immediately after MTR.
11.	The PMU should develop an exit strategy before the end of the project, including information related to sustainability of the project results. This should also include information about all potential supports that could help to continue project outcomes beyond the project life.	PMU	Before the end of the project.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the MTR and objectives

13. The purpose of the Mid-term Review of the OFMP3 project is to assess the progress up to the MTR point towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the ProDoc and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR also aimed to:
- Review the project’s strategy and its risks to sustainability.
 - Review the relevance and suitability of the indicators in the results framework.
 - Review the extent to which the planned project activities are expected to achieve outputs / outcomes by project completion, and provide suggestions on adjustments where relevant.
 - Identify lessons learned (including unsuccessful practices) in relation to the design, implementation, monitoring and management of the project, and any best practices which may apply to national or sectoral policies or have shown significant potential for replication in similar GEF projects.
14. The Review has been undertaken in compliance with both UNDP/GEF evaluation policies and procedural requirements as set out in “UNDP/GEF’s guidance for Conducting MTR of UNDP-Supported Projects”.

2.2 Scope & Methodology

METHODOLOGY

15. The Mid-term Review commenced in July 2024 with the signing of the contracts and was completed by the 30 November 2024. The MTR team was composed of two members. An International Consultant (IC) led the team; a Team Expert supported the on-site data gathering, interviews and analysis. The Evaluation was evidence-based and was conducted through a participatory process. The team ensured that gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were incorporated into the MTR report. The evaluation methodology included several key phases:
- **Review of Documents:**
The review began with a thorough review of project documentation, including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. baseline funding proposal submitted to the GEF, Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the ProDoc, project reports, Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Quarterly Progress Reports, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents, UNSDCF, GEF core indicators submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement stage with updates). A list of documents is provided as Annex 6.7.
 - **Stakeholder analysis:**
The review undertook an analysis of projects stakeholders, informed by the documentation described above and initial discussions with UNDP and FFA counterparts. Key stakeholders were identified as; UNDP project staff, FFA and PMU staff, project partners (SPC, PNAO, WWF,

PITIA), representatives of participating countries, other individuals involved with the project such as consultants and external advisors.

The outcomes of the document review and stakeholder analysis, along with other relevant issues, were consolidated into an **Inception Report** approved by UNDP BRH.

- Stakeholder interviews:

Interviews carried out: Due to time and resource limitations, it was decided that one member of the evaluation team would attend a technical meeting held in the Philippines in August 2024 (an FFA preparatory meeting ahead of the 20th meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission). This provided an opportunity to carry out interviews with FFA Member country participants and representatives of the project partners (SPC and PNA) in one location. The team member also visited the FFA headquarters in Honiara for discussions with PMU and FFA staff. Supplementary interviews were conducted remotely. A full list of interviewees is provided as Annex 6.6.

Interviews procedure:

Interviews were carried out using a set of guiding questions based on the Evaluation Matrix (Annex 6.2) and the MTR key questions (Annex 6.3). Interviewees were advised of the purpose and context for the MTR, and assured on issues of confidentiality. The interviews were semi-structured in character; focusing on the key points but allowing the interview to expand freely on areas where that had specific experience and /or expertise. An opportunity was given to all interviewees to ask questions to the consultant so that the conversation became two-way in nature. Full notes were taken of each interview and shared with the evaluation team. Wherever possible, and within time constraints, information collected was cross-checked between various sources to confirm its veracity.

- Draft Review Report:

The initial findings were presented virtually on 10th September 2024. A draft final report was submitted to the Commissioning Unit on 25th September 2024 for review and comment. The commissioning unit coordinated two rounds of reviews of the draft report from stakeholders as well as an internal quality assurance (QA) review and provided feedback to the evaluation team for additional edits and revisions.

- Final Review Report:

The review report was revised in view of comments received, and the evaluators provided the final version of the MTR report by 30th November 2024. Dates of deliverables are available in Annex 6.5. A record of comments and responses (audit trail) is attached as Annex 6.11

SCOPE OF THE MTR

16. The evaluation analyzed progress across all outputs from project start through to 30 June 2024, although certain activities occurring after 30 June were also taken into account in the assessment of some indicators.

17. The MTR team assessed the following four categories of project progress.

- i. Project Strategy and Project design
- ii, Progress Towards Results/ Outcomes Analysis
- iii. Management Arrangement
- iv. Sustainability

2.3 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- Information regarding project achievements was obtained from the review of the project related documents and confirmed and complemented by primary data-collection. The findings were verified and triangulated through interviews with stakeholders.
- These documents also served as a key source for assessing results and the extent of achievement of the project goal and objectives.
- To assess the success of capacity development through trainings, the post training evaluation reports were reviewed for evidence of change in knowledge among participants.
- The evaluation also analyzed how contextual dynamics and factors have contributed or hindered the achievement of project results. UNDP gender mainstreaming and gender equity policies were used to compare the achievements from gender perspectives, particularly Objective: i) Equal decision-making; ii) Equal access to productive resources; iii) Equal access to goods and services for economic development; iv) Reduction of women's work burden.
- Review of Quarterly progress reports/PIRs provided information on participation of women from project development to implementation as well as distribution of benefits across different stakeholders and sectors.

Conclusions & Recommendations

18. The evaluation team included a section of the report setting out the evaluation's evidence-based conclusions, drawn from the findings. The resulting recommendations (sub-section 5.2) set out succinct proposals for critical interventions to support future implementation of the project.
19. The review report uses the format provided in the ToR (Annex 6.1). The delivery status of each of the project's indicators was rated using the scale outlined in Annex 6.4. All recommendations are accompanied by details of who is responsible for carrying out the action, and the timeframe. Appropriate lessons learned extracted from the evaluation are included as sub-section 5.3.
20. As indicated above, comments were sought from stakeholders on the draft final report. Since the evaluation report is an independent view, the only changes made to the text were those pertaining to factual errors. However, to ensure complete transparency of views and to ensure that all parties' views are fully reflected, all other comments received on the draft are included in the audit trail annexed to the final report, along with the evaluators' response as appropriate.

2.4 Ethics

21. The review was conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) “Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations”. The assessments were independent, impartial and rigorous, and the reviewers maintained personal and professional integrity.

2.5 Limitations

22. The MTR ToR incorporated limitations on field visits for the purpose of carrying out stakeholder interviews. There was provision for travel of the expert team member only, so the Team Leader could not travel to any of the project countries. Similarly, due to the large number of participating countries (14), it was not possible to visit all countries. The initial proposal (in the ToR) was to visit three countries; Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands and New Caledonia. Due to security reasons (owing to political unrest), New Caledonia was excluded from the mission planning. Ultimately it was decided that the team expert would attend a regional meeting held in Manila, Philippines in August 2024, to enable discussions with key informants from the project countries and technical agencies as described above. The team member also visited Solomon Islands where the project management unit is based. Due to time differences between Nepal and the Project countries, and the short notice period for scheduling discussions on site, the Team leader was only able to take part in few virtual meetings of key stakeholders, and the remaining meetings/interviews were attended by the Team Expert alone. This limited the Team Leader’s first-hand experience of the project and its key stakeholders.

2.6 Structure of the Evaluation Report

23. The MTR report is structured in line with UNDP’s guidance and covers the following sections:
- The project description and development context (this includes project design, its rationale and development context, the problems the project sought to address, the objectives, establishment of baseline data, key stakeholders and expected results)
 - Findings (Results of implementation and comparison with the targets as set)
 - Project Design / Formulation
 - Project Implementation
 - Project Results
 - Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons learned
 - Annexes.

3 Project Description and Background Context

3.1 Start, Duration and Policy Context

24. The project document was signed on 19 May 2022. The Inception Workshop took place on 19 October 2022. The first disbursement of GEF funding was received on 1 August 2022. The project duration is 60 months, and it is projected to end on 19 May 2027. The project is implemented by FFA in coordination with UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH).

3.2 Project Development Context

25. A precursor UNDP/FAO GEF-funded project on the *Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* (also known as OFMP2), aimed to support Pacific SIDS in meeting their obligations to implement and effectively enforce global, regional and sub-regional arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fisheries, thereby increasing sustainable benefits derived from these fisheries. A significant output from OFMP2 was the preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a subsequent Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Pacific Islands region. The TDA identified the primary sources and causes of transboundary impacts to the oceanic fisheries in the region. Importantly, it also provided a technical and factual basis for the ‘transboundary’ countries to adopt the SAP. The SAP provides the formal basis for a roadmap of actions to address the transboundary problem and issues across the region.
26. Consequently, the *Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Living Oceanic Resources by the Small Island Developing States of the Western and Central Pacific* was formally adopted by signature of the relevant Forum Fisheries Committee Ministers from each of the Pacific SIDS in mid-2019. This current project sets out to address the root causes of the threats and potential impacts as identified by the TDA, and to translate the proposed SAP strategies more specifically into an appropriate set of GEF Project Components.
27. It is also recognized that climate change is likely to have effects on distribution and resilience of tuna stocks in the region. Changes in temperature and pH, and associated alterations in ecosystem physical parameters, as well as food chain relationships, may result in changes in stock range and migration patterns. This would also change access to stocks in different areas of the WCPO region which could result in adverse socioeconomic impacts on Pacific SIDS. Since local communities’ livelihoods are dependent on fish and ocean resources, changes due to environmental reasons or unsustainable harvest may have serious impact on them. To safeguard fish population and also address environmental effects, sustainable harvest strategies, alternative livelihood options (as an adaptation measure), and strong and effective institutional arrangements are necessary. This project is designed to address these needs.

3.3 Problems that the Project sought to Address

28. The project aims to address the key challenges identified through the TDA and SAP:
- Weaknesses in (and lack of capacity for) management and compliance, especially on high seas
 - Incomplete knowledge of the impacts of climate change on Western & Central Pacific ecosystem and its highly migratory fish stocks

- Inadequate application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management,
- Inadequate application of area-based management tools such as integrated coastal management and marine spatial planning
- Inadequate policy, regulatory and other incentives to reduce land and sea-based sources of marine plastic pollution along with inadequate ratification and/or enforcement of relevant shipping conventions

3.4 Project Description and Strategy

29. The overall objective of the SAP implementation project is to address the recognition given by the WCPF Convention to the ecological and geographical vulnerability of the Pacific countries, territories and possessions in the region, their economic and social dependence on highly migratory fish stocks, and their need for specific assistance, including financial, scientific and technological, to allow them to participate effectively in the convention, to support the management and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks.

30. The long-term vision statement arising from the SAP is for a healthy, well-managed and valued ecosystem supporting the sustainable use of living marine resources which provide food and economic security, resilience and benefits to the Pacific SIDS in the WCPF Convention Area. In order to address these identified threats, the SAP has endorsed and adopted the following primary Objectives and the associated Strategies:

Objective A: Improvements and Strengthening of Management Strategies and Mechanisms for the Ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources.

Strategy A1: Improvement in existing management approaches for sustainable management

Strategy A2: New management approaches induced for sustainable management

Objective B: Strengthening and expanding the scientific knowledge base to support improved understanding and management of the ecosystem and its living marine resources in the WCPFC area.

Strategy B.1: improvements in existing approaches and methodologies to enhance the existing scientific knowledge base, especially in the context of climate-induced changes and impacts

Strategy B.2: new data collection, interpretation and handling strategies to support adaptive management

Objective C: Capacity Building and Training for Improved Management of the Ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources in the WCPFC Area.

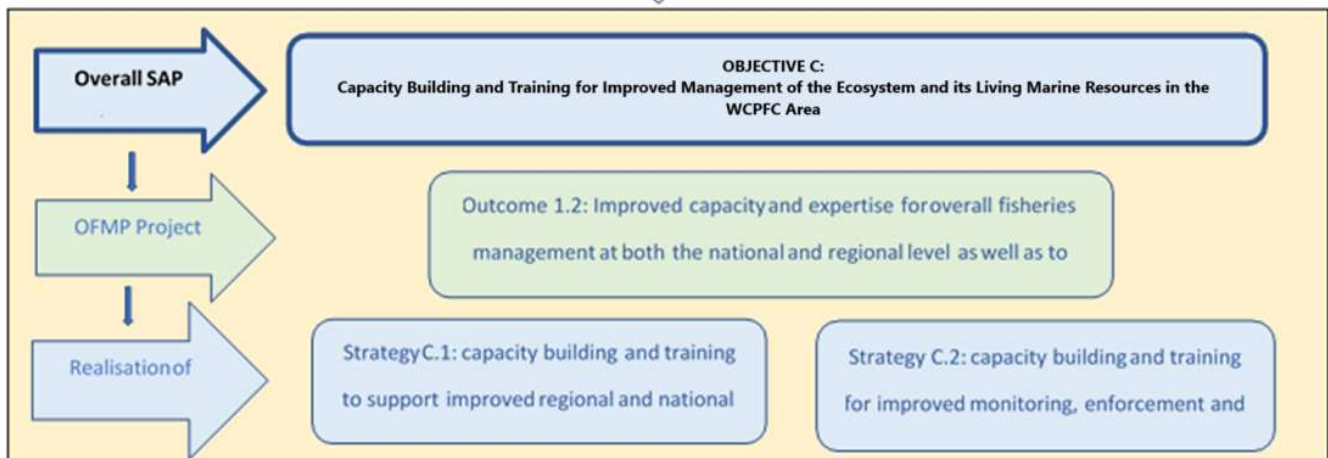
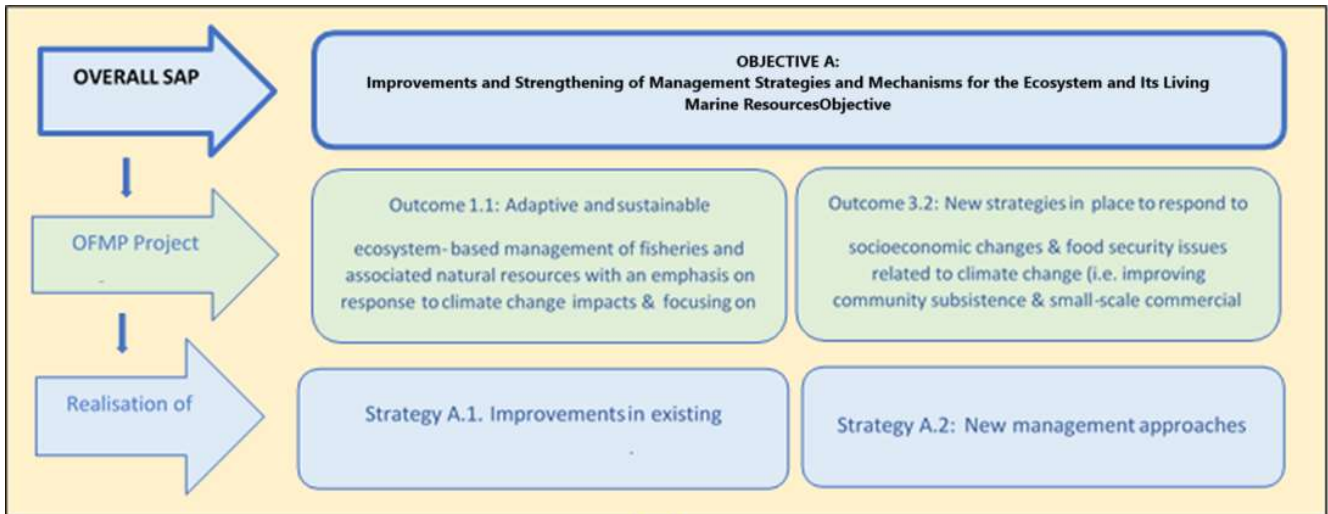
Strategy C.1: capacity building and training to support improved regional and National Management and administration of ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources

Strategy C.2: capacity building and training for improved monitoring, enforcement and compliance

Theory of Change

31. The ProDoc sets out a Theory of Change (ToC) that addresses the key issues identified by the TDA and the SAP. The ToC identifies appropriate Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs that link the overall Objectives of the SAP into the design of the OFMP3 Project. For example, the SAP has identified the need to Improve and Strengthen Management Strategies and Mechanism for the Ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources. Project Outcome 1.1 therefore focuses on developing and implementing adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources. This would be achieved through a series of Project Outputs that deliver improvements in fisheries management (both ‘in-zone’ and ‘high-seas’) through enhanced monitoring and reporting, traceability and incorporation of improved port state measures.
32. The project in full comprises seven Outcomes to achieve these objectives:
- Outcome 1.1:** Adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources with an emphasis on response to climate change impacts and focusing on the benefit to the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in order to maintain the current 100% sustainability of all four WCP tuna stocks representing some 3 million mt annual catch.
- Outcome 1.2:** Improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management at both the national and regional level as well as to expand opportunities for PICs engagement in fisheries markets.
- Outcome 2.1:** Improved monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch (transshipping, landing and marketing), Monitoring Control Surveillance (MCS) and data analysis aiming to further reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing below the current already low 6.5% (measured level as of latest year, 2019).
- Outcome 2.2:** Greater management, monitoring and control of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to optimise returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts.
- Outcome 3.1:** Strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management responses to climate-induced impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems.
- Outcome 3.2:** New strategies in place to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues related to climate change (i.e. improving community subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries).
- Outcome 4.1:** Knowledge Management, Communication and Awareness implemented and outreaching to WCPFC stakeholders as well as the global community.
33. In addition, the Project Outputs include the key PIF elements of:
- i) Strengthening of zone-based management.
 - ii) Improvements in implementation of National Tuna Management Plans along with Eco- Labelling and offloading requirements; and
 - iii) Adoption of adaptive management measures that will deliver more effective ecosystem management approaches prioritizing impacts from climate change and the need to adopt pre-agreed harvest strategies. This would include, where feasible, appropriate consideration of the use of broader marine spatial planning tools as an ecosystem management strategy including focusing on tuna migratory routes where possible.

34. Once these Outputs have been delivered, this will help the countries to achieve the overall Strategy that they have adopted (Improvements in Existing Management Approaches) to realize the original overall Objective.
35. The full ToC presented below in a diagrammatic form shows the sequence of delivery through the proposed Outcomes and Outputs, and how they support realization of the respective SAP Strategies.



3.5 Project Implementation Arrangements

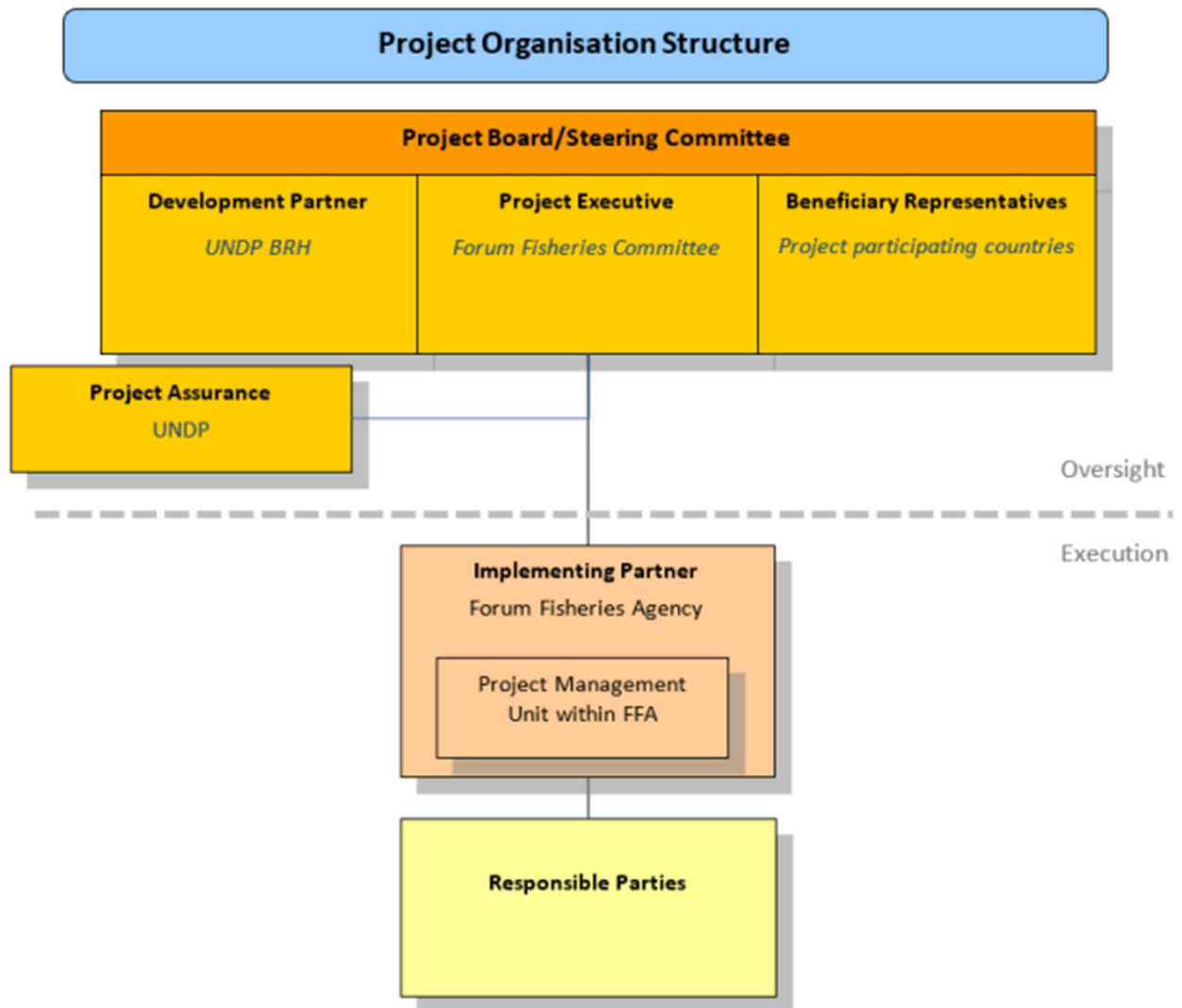


Figure above is as included in the record of project Inception Workshop October 2022.

36. As the GEF Implementing Agency, the role of the UNDP includes monitoring the implementation of the project, reviewing progress in the realization of the project outputs, and ensuring the proper use of UNDP/GEF funds. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Board/Steering Committee. UNDP, in its assurance role, presents to the Project Board and attends the Project Board meeting as a non-voting member.

37. The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) based in Solomon Island is the Implementing Partner (IP) of this project. The Implementing Partner is responsible for the following functions: i) coordinating activities to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes; ii) facilitating organization of project events, missions of international consultants and project trips; iii) facilitating access to data and information required for project implementation; iv) providing inputs into the project’s annual work-plans and reports; v) coordinating interventions financed by GEF/UNDP with other parallel interventions; vi) coordinating and liaising with Regional and National authorities involved in project implementation; vii) Risk management as outlined in the project document; viii) ensuring project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project support national systems; ix) implementation of the project work plan; x) verifying and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the quarter and year; and xi) signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certification of expenditures. It is also directly responsible for creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all project activities, including coordinating with the relevant ministries at the national level and Executive Authorities in each of the targeted areas.
38. Day-to-day management of the project is carried out by a full-time Project Manager, who is supported by a finance officer and other FFA staff.
39. The Project Board (PB) (also called Project Steering Committee) serves as the executive decision-making body for the project, providing overall guidance and policy direction for the implementation of the project, and delivering advice on appropriate strategies for ensuring project sustainability. The PB Council comprises the UNDP GEF Technical Advisor, Bangkok Regional Hub of UNDP, a representative from each Member State, and observers. The Secretariat/PMU provides secretarial services. The PB is chaired by the prevailing Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee and the UNDP Deputy Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) or his/her designated officials will co-chair the Project Board.

3.6 Project Timing and Milestones

Activities	Milestone
PIF Approval Date	19 December 2019
Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) date	20 August 2021
CEO Endorsement Date	24 January 2022
Project Document Signature Date (project start date)	19 May 2022
Date of Inception Workshop	19 October 2022
First GEF fund Disbursement Date	1 August 2022
Planned start date	19 May 2022
Planned end date	19 May 2027
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	19 November 2024
Actual Mid-term Review date	July-November 2024
Terminal Evaluation Date	19 February 2027
Planned Closing Date	19 May 2027

3.7 Main Stakeholders

40. Stakeholders involved in the project implementation were identified at the project formulation phase with clear roles and responsibilities. Beyond the participating countries, stakeholders were identified based on their technical capability and the relevance of their role to the project. Extensive consultations were conducted with these stakeholders during the Stakeholder and Partnership Workshop and throughout the project implementation. A wide range of stakeholders were involved in the project development process, and roles and responsibilities were clearly documented in the project implementation plan (see page 28, Stakeholder and Partnerships of the ProDoc). Stakeholders of the project include:

- Forum Fisheries Agency Members
- SPC members
- Other WCPFC Members
- Parties to the Nauru Agreement
- UNDP
- Academic Institutions
- FAO
- GEF
- NGO Representatives
- Fisher Communities
- Private Sector
- WWF
- The International MCS Network (IMCSN)
- World Bank
- PITIA

4. Findings

4.1 Project Design and Formulation

Project Design

41. The project was designed to address the identified problems through adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management, improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management, improved monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch, monitoring and control of FADs, strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management, developing and implementing new strategies to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues, and knowledge management, communication and awareness generation. It also aimed to control FADs to optimize returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts. These elements in the project design contribute to generating income for local communities, improving local livelihoods, enhancing resilience to climate change impacts, and improving ocean governance to manage harvest impacts and safeguard ocean ecosystems. The project intervention at the broader level (regional level) is to improve capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management to expand opportunities for Pacific SIDS' engagement in fisheries markets.
42. During the project design phase, a detailed review and consultation was undertaken with each of the participating Pacific SIDS to identify the national strategies and requirements related to the project objectives. This included a National Status and Needs Report for each country. The project strategy remains relevant to national development priorities and plans in the participating countries. The goals of this project are well aligned with the goals of the Regional Road Map for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries which was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2015, and which has been used as a basis for an annual briefing to the Pacific Islands Forum on the Status of the Pacific Islands tuna fishery.
43. The project has a Strategic Result Framework (RF) with clear outcomes, outputs and activities and indicators are mostly SMART. Those that are not SMART need to be revised to ensure effective monitoring of implementation and achievements by FFA (refer recommendation 4). Gender issues were discussed during project design and gender indicators are included in the RF. The project was designed to work at the national level in each participating country as well as at regional level. This includes measures at transboundary level (regional) to improve coordination in order to address threats at broader ocean level. In this context the project works to develop the capacity throughout the Pacific Islands region to implement participatory management practices that address threats to the ecosystem of the WCPO, and to improve the livelihoods of fisheries-dependent communities.
44. The Causal Chain Analysis identified a number of environmental and socioeconomic impacts including gender inequalities and biasedness in the fisheries sectors. The design therefore provides for activities to promote equality and women's empowerment through involvement of women and youth groups, supporting equal income opportunities among all groups, and providing equal opportunities for access to training and incentives for sustainable production and equal participation in decision making.

45. Both the implementing and executing institutions participated in the project design phase. The interested partners were selected based on their expertise on the subject, capacity and interest to join the project. The project design utilized knowledge on threats and management from the TDA along with experiences and lessons from previous phases of this project in each country. The project has applied used a range of approaches during implementation, including:
- (i) Establishing working relationships between officials from the fisheries-related sectors in all 14 countries.
 - (ii) Improving and updating country webpages.
 - (iii) Conducting ocean related research activities.
 - (iv) Developing sustainable harvest strategies and adoption of strategies by all countries.
 - (v) Conducting training to enhance capacity of ocean and fisheries staff.
 - (vi) Encouraging endorsement of ecosystem-based approach to cooperatively manage fisheries, including climate change adaptation strategies.
 - (vii) Endorsement of the FFA Climate Change Implementation Plan by Fisheries Officials from FFA Members.
 - (viii) Mainstreaming ecosystem and climate change indicators into management decisions.
 - (ix) Re-drafting of NTMDPs.
 - (x) Establishing partnerships with likeminded institutions to accomplish various activities of the project.
 - (xi) Initiating online systems to provide new mechanisms to improve vessel and catch tracking.
 - (xii) Identifying alternative livelihood options for local communities to decrease their dependency on ocean resources and also to improve their resilience to climate change impacts.
 - (xiii) Bringing parties to agreement to initiate FAD tracking and FAD buoy registration; and
 - (xiv) Initiating regional ecosystem monitoring.

4.1.1 Analysis of Results Framework

46. The Results Framework (RF) has a single *objective* and seven *outcomes*. The outcomes and outputs are aligned with the objective of the project. The focus of each component is described under section 3.3 & 3.4.
47. Indicators in the result framework are relevant, precise and in most cases SMART (Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Relevant, and Time-bound) and there is gender disaggregation of the indicators. All are based on sound scientific monitoring protocols using the most relevant measures for the given criteria. The MTR identified several indicators that need improvement to make them SMART, and to improve project implementation and monitoring. These are listed below with a brief explanation of the issue in each case:

Indicator 1: need to mention subject for staff training.

Indicator 3: has different MTR and TE target units.

Indicator 6: does not specify which policy be developed and applied.

Indicator 7: does not inform of the subject of staff training.

Indicator 9: involves a complex set of achievements in different technical areas.

Indicator 10: need to clarify e.g. to reflect that national licensing is not within the control of the project or FFA.

48. All the risks and assumptions outlined in the project document were logical and robust. This helped in identifying appropriate activities and precautionary measures to address them. Arrangements were made for mitigation of risks, enabling the implementation of activities and progress towards the achievement of targets. As per standard UNDP requirements, the project had provision for monitoring risks quarterly and reporting the status of risks to the UNDP BRH (recorded in the UNDP Quantum risk log).

4.1.2 Analysis of Assumptions and Risks

49. Risk assessment was conducted regularly in every quarter and reviewed during Project Steering Committee meetings. Risks have also been reviewed in annual project implementation reviews.
50. The Social and Environmental Screening (SES) Procedure assessed the primary social and environmental risks arising from the project, including the level of significance of those risks and proposing social and environmental assessment and management measures. Nine SES risks were identified and, of these, three were rated as 'Low', and the rest 'Moderate'. The SES recorded that indigenous peoples "will not be negatively affected during project implementation". Additionally, the PIR of 2023 identified that the risk due to shifting to pelagic resources may result in increased consumption of fish of high trophic level; some of which are known for carrying higher levels of heavy metals that can cause health problems.
51. In the risk register, 19 risks have been updated. Of these, one is 'high', two 'substantial', eight 'moderate' and eight 'low' level risks. Mitigation measures were also updated to all identified risks; these measures have been followed during project implementation. The 'high' risk is identified as the risk of compromising project results due to increased cost of Component 1 activities. This has been mitigated by partnering with other institutions and also conducting activities back-back to reduce costs.
52. The risk arising due to shortage of observers during the post-COVID period has been addressed by conducting training of trainers. PITIA was identified as implementing partner for some activities, but it has ceased operations during the project implementation phase. The relevant activities were implemented with the help of other partners.
53. Assumptions were also reviewed in every quarter, during Project Steering Committee meetings and in annual project implementation reviews. No change in assumptions was observed during the project implementation up to the MTR point.

4.1.3 Lessons from other Relevant Projects

54. The project utilized lessons from the earlier OFMP projects while developing activities of this project. From the documents, it is evident that the interventions in this region over the last two decades have maintained a sustainable fishery for these highly migratory species. The project had planned (under Output 2.1.3) to support strategic design and scoping for implementation of improved supply chain traceability. This involved using lessons and practices from blockchain trials in Fiji and wider testing for further enhancement of blockchain technology application. Similarly, the project used lessons and best practices from alternative income generating activities

from some 10 examples across 5 Pacific SIDS; including clear examples related to gender equity and youth. The project has collaborated closely with IW:LEARN in bringing contributions, lessons, best practices and other information and guidance to the annual LME Consultancy Workshops and the biennial International Waters Conferences.

55. The project aims to build on the success of the past 15-20 years of funding and support in the region by capturing the best practices/lessons from this, as well as past projects and GEF supported initiatives, with a view of recommending replication as appropriate in other RFMOs. To support this, the project is preparing a report on lessons and best practices from OFMP 1 & 2 and the current project, along with wider experience (e.g. from outside the Pacific Islands region).

4.1.4 Planned Stakeholder Participation

56. Information on planned stakeholders is already explained and listed in 3.7 and actual stakeholder participation is explained in 4.3.3.

4.1.5 Linkage Between Project and Other Institutions

57. Several partners are working in the Pacific region to address ocean ecosystem and fisheries issues.
- The FAO GEF child Project “Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”. This builds on existing collaborations and contributes to optimal use of scarce resources in order to achieve the global goals for sustainable fishing and biodiversity conservation.
 - “Pacific Ridge to Reef” (Pacific R2R) is a GEF multi-focal area program guiding coordinated investment of GEF grant funding across its focal areas of biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and international waters in Pacific SIDS.
 - The Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) initiated in 2015 is funded by the World Bank. It operates as a series of projects which includes separate, but complementary, national projects in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.
 - The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) supports sound ocean and coastal governance, with a focus on biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of fisheries and other marine resources. This project also supports ocean and coastal governance by implementing ecosystem-based management with provision of evidence-based program planning, enhancing capacity of relevant staff and promoting sustainable harvest.
 - Two Australian funded projects: “Regional Aerial Surveillance Program”, and “Support for activities addressing illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Pacific tuna fisheries” are providing support to FFA. The first one is a 30-year commitment by Australia and the second one started in 2021 and runs for 3 years.
 - Similarly, there are 3 projects with the support from the New Zealand government namely: “Pacific Island Port State Measures” started in 2017; “Catch documentation and Enhancing Compliance in Pacific Tuna Fisheries” initiated in 2018; and “Improving South Pacific Tuna Longline Policy and Management” a five year project initiated in 2018 to support ocean ecosystem and fisheries management. OFMP 3 will complement these projects and work in close cooperation with them.

- Another GEF full child project is in preparation entitled “Enabling the Transformation to a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Pacific Islands Region”. FFA is involved in formulation of this project which will also complement the OFMP3 project and contribute to sustainability of project outcomes.

4.2 Progress Towards Results

4.2.1 Progress towards outcomes analysis

Attainment of Objectives:

58. The project works to address the root causes of the threats and potential impacts as identified by the TDA and SAP. The text below highlights key outputs that have been delivered under the project (MTR comments on achievement are included in italics):

Within Outcome 1.1: Adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources³

- Two ecosystem-based management strategies have been adopted to date, including one harvest strategy by WCPFC (December 2022), and the FFA Climate Change Strategy (August 2023). Three additional strategies are on track to be endorsed by Ministers in July 2024, having been discussed by Fisheries Officials in May 2024.
- The harvest strategy and associated limits for skipjack tuna were adopted by the WCPFC in December 2022. A harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore is on track to be adopted in December 2024.
- The project contributed to the development of the FFA Climate Change Strategy, and associated implementation plan and MERLA framework, supported by the FFA Fisheries Management Adviser funded under the project. The FFA Climate Change Strategy (August 2023) and Implementation Plan (May 2024) have been endorsed by FFA Members.
- Three additional management strategies (Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy 2024-2029; FFA Information Management Strategy; and the Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy) are on track for endorsement by FFA Members at the July 2024 Ministerial meeting.
- Scientific support and advice provided to WCPFC Scientific Committee and Members through the OFMP3 funded SPC Scientists.
- The project contributed to the attendance of SPC and FFA scientific and management advisors at key meetings to support members’ consideration of ecosystem-based management strategies. 377 people directly benefited from these activities (58% male, 42% female):

³ Outcome headings are abridged in some instances

- Participation at the 19th WCPFC Scientific Committee Meeting – scientific advice and analysis to inform regional management decisions benefited 199 people (110 men and 89 women)
 - Participation at WCPFC20 benefited 456 people (265 men, 191 women)
 - Management Options Consultation Meeting with FFA Members – 59 people (35 men, 24 women).
 - 1st PNA Scientific Committee Meeting, PNA Annual Officials Meeting and 13th VDS Technical Committee bringing together PNA Members to agree people (31men and 20 women).
 - 133rd FFC Officials Annual Meeting (FFC133) held in Nauru from 6-10 May 2024. The meeting endorsed the implementation plan for the Climate Change Strategy and progressed three additional strategies for Ministerial endorsement in July – 68 people (43 men, 25 women).
- Work on furthering harvest strategies across the WCPFC is supported by a range of donors and partners, including WCPFC and The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) - through SPC science and capacity development. The development of the additional three FFA strategies is carried out with funding support from other projects.
 - Re-drafting of NTMDPs has been completed for four of 14 countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga), including one with Ministerial endorsement (Tonga) and others in the final Ministerial sign-off stage. Four NTMDPs are currently under review (Cook Islands, Niue, PNG and Vanuatu), and six have not yet started (*This is behind the MTR target: 8 drafted and are in different stages of review, signing stage and endorsement stages, and remaining 6 not started yet.*)
 - 24 direct beneficiaries were supported under this indicator (54% men, 46% women) through:
 - Solomon Islands NTMDP consultation workshop -24 people (13 men, 11 women).
 - The project contributed to the inclusion of and/or advice on climate change for each NTMDP through the project funded Fisheries Management Adviser (Climate Change) at FFA. The project also contributes to the scientific advice SPC provides for each NTMDP through the project funded National Fisheries Scientist.
 - *The Midterm target of 8 PICTs with redrafted NTMDPs is not achieved at MTR but it is expected that all targets will be completed by the end of the project. Reasons for the delay are covered under Outcome 4.1 in this section)*
 - National consultations, support and advice to develop and implement NTMDPs are funded through multiple other funding sources and projects.

Within Outcome 1.2: Improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management at both the national and regional level as well as to expand opportunities for Pacific SIDS engagement in fisheries markets

- The total number of staff that have undergone training and built capacity in fisheries management, including monitoring, reporting or MCS, is 483 (63% men, 37% women). Ranging from 2 to 47 staff per country, with an average of 11 individuals per country. The project provided direct support through funding participants as well as trainers (mainly from FFA, SPC or PNAO staff). This training and capacity building included:
 - Palau Vessel Days Scheme Training - 11 people (6 men, 5 women)
 - Marine Spatial Planning Blue Prosperity Workshop – 65 people (34 men, 31 women)
 - Introductory Stock Assessment Workshop - 21 people (15 men, 6 women).
 - Advanced Stock Assessment Workshop - 19 people (8 men, 11 women).
 - PNAO FAD and E-Reporting Workshop – 43 people (30 men, 13 women)
 - Fiji On board e-reporting system training – 40 people (26 men, 14 women)
 - Tuvalu training focusing on e-reporting - 13 people (8 men, 5 women)
 - PNA Observer agency placement and safety training - 20 people (20 men)
 - Palau Marine Spatial Planning Workshop – VDS training - 61 people (33 men, 28 women)
 - Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) Training - 24 people (all men).
 - Regional Climate Awareness Workshop (CLAW) - 104 people (60 men, 44 women)
 - Regional Tuna Data Workshop 2024 – 34 people (14 men, 20 women)
 - Observer Coordinators Meeting – 28 people (24 men, 4 women)
- Four formal partnership agreements have been signed, between FFA and: SPC, PNAO, WWF and PITIA. Informal agreements are in place with FAO and the South Pacific Group (SPG) of countries. The partnership with FAO has led to joint delivery of livelihood and food security work under indicators 14 and 15. Partnering with the SPG has led to support for their meeting schedule and work on South Pacific albacore Management Procedures. All partnerships support the needs of the project and joint delivery to improve management and benefits from fisheries.
- The partnership with SPC delivers priority technical and scientific studies and data capture, which is then used by FFA to drive adaptive management processes. The partnerships with PNAO and WWF deliver on business expansion by adapting management to include innovative science.
- FFA partnered with SPC to host the inaugural Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Fisheries Symposium in April 2024. This event paved the way for ongoing collaboration between the two organizations. The symposium resulted in three key areas for joint efforts: improving gender data for informed policy and investment decisions, value-adding initiatives and undertaking a regional study on gender-based violence in Pacific fisheries. It was attended by 55 participants (13 men, 42 women).
- The GESI Symposium was jointly funded by OFMP3 along with the EU-funded PEUMP, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) -funded ‘Pacific Women Lead’

program, and the MFAT-funded Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme. The fisheries sector is dominated by men, and women are less able to benefit from this sector. Due to the historical domination of men in this sector, there is risk of gender violence and exploitations. The Symposium on Gender and Social Inclusion will not only open opportunities for women in this sector but also promote development of gender related strategies and regulations so create a safe environment for women.

- No partnership made on expansion in the domestic fisheries sector. The reason is explained under Outcome 1.1.

Within Outcome 2.1: Improved monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch (transshipping, landing and marketing), MCS and data analysis

- E-reporting coverage:
 - Longline Fishery – 50% of FFA members’ fleets
 - Purse seine fishery - 100% for all PS vessels operating in PNA waters.
 - Observer e-reporting coverage - 40% of vessels in the WCPFC area. (Below target). The reason for not completing target explained under outcome 1.1 and also in the paragraph after outcome 4.1.
 - More than 70% of transshipment reports submitted by all CCMs were directly entered (e-reported) in 2022.
- In response to the decrease in Observer numbers post-COVID, in November-December 2023 the project supported the facilitation of the Certificate IV Training and Assessment course (coded CET4) delivered by USP to PIRFO Trainee Trainers. The purpose of this course was to help Members rebuild the number of qualified PIRFO Observers by having more locally based trainers.
- The project directly funded training, workshop, data analysis practices, participation in workshops etc. and from these a total of 573 direct beneficiaries were supported including 61% men and 39% women through:
 - **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG):** 59 people (44 men, 15 women): The MCSWG occurred in March 2024, supported by OFMP3. This annual workshop aims to advance Members’ priorities to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and advance ER and EM amongst Members. The MSCWG made significant progress in 2024 in regard to: the Port State Measures (PSM) development plan, the Regional Information Management Facility, ER and EM, and observer livelihoods and safety.
 - **Regional data support/community of practice:** As part of OFMP3 support, SPC also maintains a Slack help desk for anyone using the SPC databases of eReporting apps for tuna data collection, management and analysis. This enables Members to access help and technical support, capacity building and bespoke data queries for their fishery. The helpdesk operates with 65 current active users (33men, 32 women).

- **Participants at the 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Workshop (7 GFEW):** 148 people (86 men, 62 women). FFA gave keynote presentations at the leading conference bringing together experts in fisheries and oceans governance.
- **Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROC24):** 43 people (38 men, 5 women). The ROC Workshop is an annual gathering for national observer program coordinators and managers from the FFA member countries
- **19th Session of Technical Compliance committee for WCPFC:** 258 people (150 men, 108 women). FFA Fisheries Management Advisors and SPC scientists supported Members to advance their regional and national priorities for consideration. The OFMP3-funded SPC Data Analyst presented on status of stocks and climate change.
- The project directly funds the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Workshop held each year bringing together all Member countries to progress E-Monitoring and E-Recording as well as other issues related to MCS. The project directly supports the data community of practice and support through the project funded SPC Data Analyst. Capacity development results reported are also those directly supported by the project. The project also funded Members and key FFA staff to participate in the 7 GFEW.
- The MCSWG in 2024 was jointly funded by OFMP3 and an MFAT-funded project.
- Two new online systems were launched in March 2024 providing new mechanisms to improve vessel and catch tracking. These systems support the implementation of the Regional Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Framework and Regional PSM Framework. New online systems are as follows:
 - a. The new Electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) system operationalizes the Regional PSM Framework and is aligned with international standards set by the WCPFC (CMM 2017-02) and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. This is accomplished with the support of other projects.
 - b. The new Online Vessel Registration System (<https://vessel-register.ffa.int>) streamlines the registration process for fishing vessel operators so they can now directly apply, upload documents, and monitor their application status online, significantly reducing manual processing times and improving the accuracy of vessel registry information.
- A tool to assist with chain of custody is being trialed in partnership with WWF. This has involved using available data to configure a chain of custody online model and the development of a dashboard to identify discrepancies in the supply chain through visualization. Once the data has been entered, the model will be tested to ensure traceability is accurate.
- *Requirement for catch documentation schemes and enforcement on all EEZ fishing operations through port state monitoring and compliance is not done (target was active in 50% of SIDS). Catch Documentation Scheme drafting and processed for negotiation for high sea fisheries, is*

not done. The reason for not completing the target is explained under outcome 1.1 and also in the paragraph after outcome 4.1.

- Work on CDS and PSM were funded by New Zealand MFAT and facilitated by the FFA Secretariat.

Within Outcome 2.2: Greater management, monitoring and control of FADs to optimise returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts.

The project has directly supported implementation of the fourth PNA Implementing Agreement on FAD Buoy Tracking. The project also provided a portion of the funding for SPC's OFP Fisheries Scientist (FADs) who is contributing to testing FAD designs. Consultancy support was also provided to support Members with FAD training and capacity building through PNAO.

- Currently PNA FAD logsheet data is being returned for virtually 100% of FAD sets, but revisions are needed to e-logs to apply the FAD logsheet to FAD deployment by purse seine vessels.
- Compliance with low-entanglement design specifications and use of non-entangling materials is required by WCPFC for all FADs deployed from January 2024 (CMM 2021-01 prior to project commencement). Trails for non-entangling and biodegradable drifting FADs have been underway since 2022. These trails are a multi-partner and multi-project coordinated effort, including more than 15 fishing companies. As at July 2023, 180 jelly-FADs had been constructed and 72 deployed as part of Project 110 led by SPC, and 216 constructed and 52 deployed as part of a related project led by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). An update on these trails was presented and formally discussed at the WCPFC Scientific Committee in 2023, including by PNA, FFA and WCPFC members. The trials are ongoing with final analyses and results due for presentation and discussion at the Scientific Committee in 2025. This work has also been published in nine scientific papers, and cited in 36 other scientific papers.
- The Fourth PNA Implementation Agreement (41A) was adopted on 1 January 2024 relating to FAD tracking and FAD buoy registration. The Parties agreed:
 - To establish a PNA FAD Buoy Register
 - To only approve FAD Buoys of certain makes and models and from Services Providers approved by PNA
 - That only FAD Buoys registered, switched on and activated can be deployed or fished in Parties' waters, or the high seas of WCPFC convention Area east of 130 degrees East and between 20 degrees North and 20 degrees South.

This was endorsed by the eight Parties (FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG Solomon Islands and Tuvalu). To support implementation, a FAD Buoy Module has also been developed in FIMS. This will significantly improve reporting, data and documentation of FAD deployment and tracking.

- PNA also tabled a proposal at SC19 (August 2023) for the development of a WCPFC FAD logsheet compatible with the PNA FAD requirements that would apply throughout the whole WCPFC Convention Area.
- FAD design trails are funded by WCPFC and ISSF projects. PNA FAD logsheet data is also funded through other sources.

Within Outcome 3.1: Strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management responses to climate-induced impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems

- Regional ecosystem monitoring program: This work is led by the Senior Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change Ecosystem Analysis) at SPC, funded through the project. For knowledge management, key results from the two earlier project phases were used to publish eight peer reviewed publications with a combined reach of 22 citations and 1,602 reads on researchgate.net alone. Ecosystem sampling and data collection was carried out on two scientific voyages in the WCPO (WARMALIS 2 in 2022 and WARMALIS 3 in Q3 2023), and expert scientific advice provided within the WCPO and internationally. The reach of the scientific outputs by OFMP3 funded Senior Fisheries Scientist has been wide, with media coverage from one article reporting on the science in the BBC alone receiving over 46,700 views.
- The first Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management was organized by PCCOS in September 2023. The project supported participation at the PCOSS event. The Conference brought together researchers and ocean managers from different disciplines related to ocean science and management. FFA was part of this pool of ocean stakeholders, as were the OFMP3 funded SPC Scientists, all coming together to guide management alignment and Policy consideration, especially in the knowledge management space. This first meeting allowed for strengthening the partnership between the project and PCCOS.
- The regional role of PCCOS has been defined to help Pacific Island governments and communities easily access the ocean science and expertise they need to make informed decisions and to protect and sustainably manage ocean resources. “Climate change science” and “fisheries science” are now included as two of the four pillars of ocean science PCOSS will platform and advocate for. Through the PCCOS platform and closer collaborations developed following the Conference, science developed under this indicator will be used to inform easily accessible integrated advice to Members.
- A total of 124 individuals benefitted directly (59% men, 41% women) from the following activities of the project:
 - 19 people participated in the 50th Joint Group of Experts on the scientific aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP- geasmp.org). GESAMP is a group of 15-20 experts/members in various domains related to marine environment (chemistry, economics, law, deep-sea mining, pollution, marine debris). Valérie Allain (funded by this project) is the only fisheries scientist in the group.

- International Collaboration on Marine Top Predators Workshop for Micronekton Task Team: 39 people (19 men and 20 women).
 - 8 people (6 men, 2 women) attended the 9th World Fisheries Congress and participate in the GESAMP Working Group 43 on sea-based sources of marine litter, 2024. Seattle, WA, USA.
 - TunaCons - 1st International Workshop on Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Retrieval Methods; participation by 58 people (37 men, 21 women). Representatives included the purse seine tuna fishing sector, local authorities, scientists from various oceans, fleet experts, and electronic monitoring specialists.
- The funding for the two scientific research voyages was from a range of other sources. Partnerships and donors for the PCCOS event included MFAT, UN Decade for Ocean Science, the EU and the US Department of State.
 - Evidence of the use of data to support adaptive management for socioeconomic welfare was seen in six project countries (43%) as evidenced through the inclusion of socioeconomic related analysis in Annual Reports –Part 1, to WCPFC.
 - At the WCPFC level, outcomes achieved include the re-negotiation of the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for tropical tuna fisheries to consider social and economic considerations (December 2023), and research into a key set of climate and environmental indicators (August 2023). This research aims to provide key information on which physical properties of the WCPO are approaching climate change induced tipping points. FFA Members supported these indicators through the WCPFC processes. These indicators will therefore inform harvest strategies going forward and will contribute to an ecosystem approach.
 - Progress developing an ecosystem approach to fisheries, along with climate change adaptation strategies, is also illustrated by the re-negotiation of the WCPFC CMM for tropical fisheries adopted in December 2023 at WCPFC 20. This CMM covers skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin stocks. This re-negotiation was to better take wider social and economic considerations into account as part of the scientific analyses performed and presented by SPC. The importance the WCPFC is placing on these approaches is illustrated by WCPFC 20 calling for a review of all CMMs that may be susceptible to being impacted by climate change, with these scheduled to be discussed in August 2024.
 - Work has been undertaken by SPC in collaboration with FFA to improve Country Web Pages (CWPs) that provide detailed and relevant data to each Member Country. In 2024 these webpages have been completely re-coded and updated to ensure data is up-to-date and accessible. To make the CWPs more user-friendly for Members, SPC will also work with a consultant to enhance the data visualization tools to support data-driven decision-making. This initiative will involve creating Power BI embedded web applications and cloud-based R-Shiny dashboards, empowering Members to personalize and analyze their data more independently.

- A total of 220 (59% men, 41% women) directly benefited from the activities supported by the project and programs are as follows:
 - Participation in FFA pre-meeting 4th Tropical Tuna Measure Workshop which was attended by 22 people (14 men, 8 women) and 30 online (17 men, 13 women).
 - 4th Tropical Tuna Measures Workshop: 168 people. Technical and scientific support provided to members at the workshop.
- The project directly contributed to these results through the scientific support provided on research into climate change indicators by project funded Senior Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change and Ecosystem Analysis) at SPC. Work on Country Web pages was supported by the National Fisheries Scientist funded through the project. Support provided by members to prepare Part 1 reports and associated analysis is provided by the project funded Fisheries Data Analyst at SPC and Member participation at the Tuna Data Workshop.

Within Outcome 3.2: New strategies in place to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues related to climate change (i.e. improving community subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries)

- Nearshore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics (e.g. tuna) is occurring in all 14 project countries. Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and processed for local consumption in 10 of the 14 countries. *(Exceeded the target)*
- A training Needs Assessment was completed to determine this current status, as well as future community awareness needs going forward.
- In partnership with FAO, a Food-security, Livelihoods and Community-based FAD training workshop which was held in November 2023 with 57 participants from 14 Pacific SIDS (44 men, 13 women). The workshop was a multi-agency collaboration, driven by OFMP3, while also harnessing expertise and resources from SPC, FAO and the FFA World Bank PROPER project. The workshop aimed to continue to build on, share knowledge and develop the effectiveness of nearshore FAD work from across the Membership. The project directly contributed to co-funding the workshop and associated activities to identify alternative income options. The project also co-funded the OFP Fisheries Scientist (FADs) who provides advice to community-based FAD work
- A training needs assessment was completed in November 2023 covering all 14 Pacific participating countries.
- Alternative income options were identified for all 14 countries as part of the abovementioned Food-security, Livelihoods and Community-based FAD Workshop. Across the board, post-harvest and processing freshly caught fish was seen as a high priority alternative income and value-added option, as this preserves the quality of the fish and the amount that it can be sold for. As fish quality rapidly declines when fish are not properly stored and processed, properly

processing fish means it does not need to be sold within a day of catch and can be sold at higher-value places such as high-end restaurants.

Other alternative income options identified included:

- Solar freezers so fish can be frozen and sold
 - Other fish preserving mechanisms (drying, bottling)
 - Alternative fish products (e.g. samosas, sausages)
 - Eco-tourism (e.g. turtles, rays etc.).
- Following this workshop, SPC presented a paper to the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture on Coastal fisheries livelihood- diversification and food security.
 - A tuna bottling workshop was undertaken with 18 women as alternative income training.
 - *Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and processed for local consumption in 3 of the 14 Pacific SIDS (Not done). The reason for not completing the target is explained under outcome 1.1 and also in the para after outcome 4.1.*

Within Outcome 4.1: Foster and promote collaborative mechanisms with LMEs, Regional Seas Conventions and RFMOs in order to better manage and sustain an overall healthy ecosystem and to catalyze cooperative sustainable fisheries management.

All results reported under this Outcome are those directly supported by the project. Through the PNAO/FFA partnership, OFMP 3 supported Pacifical⁴ to cover 444 trips of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified tuna (for more information see pacifical.com).

- Currently there are 33 MSC certified tuna fisheries in the WCPO covering purse seine, longline, pole and line and troll fisheries, and all four of the main harvested species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore). A further nine WCPO fisheries are currently in assessment. Tuna from the WCPO makes up over half of the global commercial tuna catch, and currently 58% of all MSC certified tuna comes from the WCPO. MSC review has recommended a 5-year extension of the PNA MSC certification.
- To effectively capture eco-labelling lessons and practices, a three-part series has been developed to document current practices and learnings along the way. This series, supported by funding from the project, included interviews and information from PNAO who are leading in this area.
- A key achievement is the continued support of the PNA venture Pacifical. Pacifical is the leading provider of tuna supply chain traceability and verification services in the Pacific Ocean region. Specializing in ensuring transparency and integrity throughout the Pacific tuna supply chain through direct engagement with fishing authorities, Pacifical verifies tuna catches utilizing its Smart Tuna platform. Committed to sustainability and accountability, Pacifical services play a vital role in promoting responsible fishing practices and safeguarding marine

⁴ <https://www.pacifical.com/en/>

ecosystems. PNA Pacific covered 199 trips of MSC certified tuna in the first 5 months of 2024.

- In terms of sharing lessons learned, PNAO supported a Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) joint venture with major US retail chain Walmart to continue and expand MSC certified fish supply to US market. An article has been published on the RMI-Walmart agreement, and learning from this shared with other PNA members.
- A communications strategy has been adopted and is delivering outreach and awareness activities through Knowledge Management consultant ASA.
- Progress towards our knowledge management objectives is on track with 10,452 individual visitors and 18,464 views to the project website, 16 articles written and published, as well as growth in social media with 6,900 followers on the project Facebook page and 30,700 impressions. Since there are many web pages of partners, publishers and media coverage links, it is not possible to provide all of them here for reference. The links are available in the section “I. Knowledge Management and Communications” of PIR of 2024. Selected links include:
 - <https://tunapacific.org/>
 - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/360413812_Can_Stomach_Content_and_Microbiomes_of_Tuna_Provide_Near_Real-Time_Detection_of_Ecosystem_Composition_in_the_Pacific_Ocean
 - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353814126_Modelling_Marine_Predator_Habit_at_Using_the_Abundance_of_Its_Pelagic_Prey_in_the_Tropical_South-Western_Pacific
 - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361096635_Mercury_concentrations_in_tuna_blood_and_muscle_mirror_seawater_methylmercury_in_the_Western_and_CentralPacific_Ocean
- Work on the Lessons Learnt report capturing overall lessons and best practices from the three OFMP phases is progressing with five draft chapters completed. This will be shared with other RFMOs and LMEs through the next international Waters IW: Learn conference in September 2024.
- In order to support improved communications, OFMP3 hosted a regional communications training workshop on communication strategy and planning in tuna fisheries in July 2023 in Fiji. The Workshop brought together 13 communications professionals (6 men, 7 women) from FFA Members to train them in strategic communications.
- A round of stakeholder engagement was undertaken with 15 stakeholders (11 men, 4 women) in May 2024 to provide background information for development of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), assist in the identification of potential impacts and risks and inform the next stages project implementation.

59. The project had to deal with several challenges in the initial years of project implementation that contributed to not achieving some of the targets. These included:

- Lack of staff continuity between the current project and OFMP2, due to a) change in senior leadership at FFA and b) transfer of UNDP responsibilities from the Fiji office to BRH.
- A sequel to the above was the need to revisit the partnership arrangements between FFA and the project ‘responsible parties’ (SPC and PNAO) to ensure eligibility of spending/activities.
- COVID-19 affected some aspects of project delivery due to travel restrictions and other control measures put in place by participating governments. For example, COVID-19 created a discontinuity in some activities in the sector (e.g. access to freight for fisheries products, employment of observers, use of virtual meeting technology). A further issue was that the Project Manager, although taking the role earlier, was not able to relocate to Honiara until August 2023.

60. Having worked through these issues, the project is now progressing at good pace, and it is expected that all targets can be achieved by the end of the project life.
61. A summary of the project’s achievements is given below, followed by an outline of the attainment of objectives. A summary evaluation of the project Outputs is given in Table 3 followed by a more detailed description. A detailed evaluation of the level of achievements made against the indicators of success contained in the result framework is given in [Annex 6.14](#).

Overall, the project has achieved most of the key global and local environmental objectives, as demonstrated in the GEF Core Indicators, and yielded some global environmental benefits. The project can be presented as “good practice” in terms of its design and key achievements to date. Moreover, collaboration and cooperative management has been strengthened across the Pacific region through the various partnerships and other initiatives. Hence, the attainment of objectives and results is evaluated as **Satisfactory**.

Objective Indicators

62. A single Project Objective was articulated in the results framework with a development objective. The project objective is “To mainstream ecosystem-based management approaches and climate change adaptation and resilience into the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean”.
63. The project aimed to achieve its stated objective through seven outcomes and 18 outputs. Full details and an evaluation of achievements against targets are provided in Annex 6.14. The project has accomplished most of the mid-term level targeted activities.
64. Under the GEF Core Area Indicator 5, the area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity was 3600 million hectares which is same as of PIF and Endorsement stages of the project. This area of marine habitat under improved practice is the same as that recorded for the previous two phases of this project.
65. Under the GEF Core Area Indicator 7: the number of shared water ecosystems under new or improved management was one (i.e. one marine ecosystem). Within this:

- the level of TDA and SAP formulation and implementation was rated '1' at all stages up to and including the MTR.
- the level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation was rated '4' in all level up to MTR, i.e. the level of legal status and institution support is of highest level.
- the Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee was rated '3' from PIF to Endorsement stage but it has rated highest (i.e. '4') at the MTR stage.
- the level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products was rated '2' up to Endorsement level and its status was improved to be rated '3' at MTR stage. GEF Core Indicator data is provided in Annex 6.12.

As a result of the review of outcomes, the project is expected to achieve some of its environmental targets, such as for adoption of harvest strategy limiting fishing targets, improving monitoring of fisheries, enhancing capacity of staff working in the fisheries sector, transboundary cooperation in ecosystem-based ocean management etc. The project is also likely to yield environmental benefits by improving knowledge of local communities and policy makers on fisheries and ecosystems management, and changes in migratory patterns owing to climate change impacts. Hence the project's effectiveness is evaluated as **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Ratings

66. As per UNDP guidelines, the MTR ratings are consolidated in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Mid-term Review's Rating of Project Performance

Criterion	Comments	Rating
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Overall quality of M&E	The design of M&E was up to standard with a fully itemized cost plan included in the project document covering the various M&E steps, including the allocation of responsibilities. Some indicators should be revised to be SMART and this will enhance M&E. Progress tracking should track against outcomes and not just outputs and activities. Some of the indicators in result framework need to be improved.	Satisfactory
M&E design at project start up	As above.	Satisfactory
M&E Plan Implementation	M&E implementation was satisfactory both internal monitoring and monitoring of progress and impact. Progress monitoring was also good. The M&E Plan is regularly applied and is proving to be an effective means of engaging FFA in project tracking and progress reporting.	Satisfactory
IA & EA Execution:		
Overall quality of project implementation / execution	In the initial phase, implementation of some activities (monitoring of fishing activities at sea) was slow particularly due to limitation of observer coverage relating to COVID-19. This problem was resolved through conducting training of trainers. Most of the targets for MTR point were achieved and only few were not completed.	Satisfactory
Executing Agencies execution	FFA and the Members from the relevant ministries of each country collectively accomplished most of the activities targeted for MTR point. However, due to situations beyond their control, a few were not completed. Partnerships with international organizations were helpful in accomplishing several activities.	Satisfactory
Implementing Agency execution	The Implementing Agency linked very well with FFA and other partners from all countries, and was actively involved in the project guidance, especially at the PSC level and provided supervision and backstopping to the project.	Satisfactory
Outcomes		
Overall quality of project outcomes	Overall quality is good although some outcomes that are important are lagging. Most of the activities targeted for Mid-Term point were completed (a few not completed).	Satisfactory
Relevance	The project interventions – to strengthen joint management capacity for implementation of the SAP priority actions in the Pacific Ocean to address issues of the ocean and fisheries – were congruent with national priorities, and remain relevant.	Satisfactory
Effectiveness	A review of outcomes shows that these are likely to be achieved. Only a few activities projected for completion by mid-term are not yet completed, but they are on track and expected to be completed within the project life. Adoption of sustainable harvest strategy, improvement of webpage with information updating arrangements, regional-level ecosystem monitoring of ocean and using research finding for supporting management, adoption of Online system (e-PSM) to improve vessel and catch tracking (with support of other projects), completion of re-drafting of NTMDPs are examples showing effectiveness of the project interventions. Some of these are still in the process but show positive indications.	Satisfactory

Criterion	Comments	Rating
Cost-effectiveness (Efficiency)	Comparing the project expenses and achievement indicates that it is cost-effective. About 45% of overall budget (36% of GEF money) is spent and achievement is more than 90% of the Mid-term target.	Satisfactory
Sustainability:		
Overall likelihood of risks to Sustainability	Governments of the fourteen project countries are committed, and FFA is in a position to support outcomes of this project beyond the project life. A proposal is being developed for Green Climate Fund (GCF), which has activities that support the results of this project. Similarly, FFA and SPC have support from other agencies which will also assist continuation of the results of this project. Efforts are also made to train communities and staff of the fisheries sectors on various subjects related to ecosystem-based ocean management. Furthermore, institutionalizing key project outcomes and activities, such as the harvest strategy, monitoring of ocean ecosystem and online system of vessel and catch tracing is pivotal to long term project sustainability.	Likely
Financial resources	Governments of project counties are committed to continue prioritizing the ocean and fisheries management as it is important from an economic point of view. FFA is an established institution which could continue supporting outcomes of the project, and also SPC is applying for GCF funds, and activities of this proposed project are expected to continue the results of this project, so financial sustainability is likely.	Likely
Socio-economic	Communities were made aware on climate change impacts on fisheries and possible impacts of change in movement of fish stock, as well as impacts of fishing on fish populations, and the importance of sustainable utilization of resources for economic benefits through the demonstration projects. As per the Gender Strategy of FFA, the FFA Gender Adviser is involved in specific activities, and this may help the gender program to gain traction.	Likely
Institutional framework and governance	Improved institutional capacity at the national and local levels and strengthened legal status of ocean management and improved management practices with provision of evidence-based decision making, will make the results of the project sustainable. Training communities for awareness on ocean ecosystem and climate change impacts helps to generate their support in ocean management and providing alternative options for livelihood and increasing their resilience to climate change impacts. These all arrangements will establish the sustainability of the project results.	Likely
Environmental	The project itself is designed to address environmental risks, and it has improved the environmental condition of the Pacific Ocean. Sustainable harvest management and improved monitoring assure environmental sustainability.	Likely
Impact:		
Environmental status improvement	Improved ecosystem-based management, efficient monitoring and evidence-based planning, community awareness generation, improved harvest practices and decreased dependency on fish of communities for livelihood with alternative options will improve environment of ocean ecosystem. The development of a knowledge base contributes to evidence-based planning and sustainable management. Similarly, policy arrangements and development of local stewardship for ocean management and contributes to sustainable impacts.	Likely

Criterion	Comments	Rating
Environmental stress reduction	Climate-smart fisheries management practices, capacity enhancement of relevant institutions, controlled fishing management, improved monitoring, awareness generation on climate change impacts on ocean and fish movement and increasing alternative livelihood options contributes to reduction in stress on the ocean.	Likely
Progress towards stress/status change	Involvement of communities for management of ocean resources, improved monitoring system, promotion of evidence-based planning and ecosystem-based fisheries management and demonstration of economic benefits related to the sustainable use of ocean resources, are expected to contribute to a reduction in threats related to the degradation ocean ecosystems, and threats induced by climate change. Similarly, improvement in fishing techniques and a decrease in dependency on coastal fisheries for livelihood of communities also contributes to stress reduction and changing the threat status of the ocean ecosystems. Pilot projects need to demonstrate, document and disseminate benefits and the successful projects need to be up-scaled. Similarly, ecosystem-based management of ocean and fisheries needs to be maintained to improve benefits to the ecosystem and Pacific Island economies.	Likely
Overall Project Results		Satisfactory

The project supported ecosystem-based fisheries management to conserve fish populations and ocean ecosystems. It has achieved this by incorporating activities such as improving monitoring of ocean ecosystem and vessels and fishing activities, adopting sustainable fishing strategies, enhancing capacity of staff from the fisheries sector, improving webpages and developing database for evidence-based management decision making and providing alternative livelihood for local communities. These approaches were applied in the WCPO involving 14 participating countries, and the project has successfully demonstrated a cooperative approaches to sustainable ecosystem-based management of ocean ecosystem and fisheries sector. Most of the project outputs are ranked individually as **Satisfactory**; hence the overall achievement of outputs and activities is evaluated as **Satisfactory**. Only a few of the project activities targeted for MTR point have not been achieved, hence achievement of outcomes of the project is also rated as **Satisfactory**, and overall project is also rated as Satisfactory.

4.2.2 Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective

- 67. The civil unrest in Noumea during 2024 has affected the functioning of SPC (SPC headquarters are based in Noumea). The risks to person and property have impacted the corporate services function in particular, with many staff unable to work. This has caused ongoing delays in certain finance reporting and administration processes that affect the SPC operations and reporting under the project and this is out of the control of FFA. Other activities of SPC, such as PCCOS may also be affected by this situation.
- 68. The gender component under the project has been slow to gain traction. This is being addressed through direct involvement of the FFA Gender Adviser in specific project activities, in line with the FFA Gender Strategy. This includes recognizing how FFA activities can be conducted in a way that enhances gender equality while also recognizing how gender roles are expressed in the Pacific Island fisheries sector.

4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

4.3.1 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

69. The PSC has contributed to establishing consensus, advising on management decisions when guidance is required by the project coordinator – including recommendations for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of the project plans and revisions – and addressing any project level grievances. In order to ensure UNDP’s ultimate accountability, PSC/PB has operated in accordance with standards that ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition.
70. UNDP has provided supervision, oversight, and a quality assurance role to this project. The supervision of UNDP was accomplished competently and through standard procedures. UNDP maintained good communication with FFA, government agencies and other stakeholders to maintain supervision and avoid confusion. The UNDP BRH maintained its responsibilities like the review and approval of work plans and budgets, review of progress and performance against such work plans, and completion of the core indicators. Timely annual and quarterly planning of activities were completed with active participation of stakeholders. A Technical Advisor from UNDP BRH also provided support in the quality assessment of all project products. Project risks were periodically assessed in consultation with partners and risk management options were identified. The risk mitigation measures were efficiently followed.
71. UNDP’s project assurance and oversight roles were described and discussed in detail during the project inception workshop. However some confusion still remained among the partners regarding certain procedural issues. The project implementation was led by FFA in close coordination with UNDP and with the help of other partners including the relevant government agencies from each country. The implementing and executing agencies had good communication and coordination throughout the project implementation. Project progress and constraints were regularly discussed and addressed. Through the UNDP BRH, high-quality technical and financial practices were ensured. Regular monitoring to ensure proper use of GEF and other partners’ funds, reporting of progress and conducting mandatory and non-mandatory evaluations was carried out by FFA. Procurement of goods, services, recruitment of personnel were done as per the FFA procurement procedures, rules and regulations. Day to day project management, coordination and delivering adequate and appropriate management practices, program planning and implementation and reporting was done by the PMU. The PMU comprises a Project Coordinator and one support staff (admin/finance). The PMU coordinated with the relevant agencies of each country at the national level for monitoring and to implement activities. During the project development phase, a thorough exercise was done including all partners and experts to identify potential risks and also develop mitigation measures which were followed while implementing activities. Project risks were revised every Quarter and new risks were registered. The project conducted several studies by involving qualified experts and also demonstrated good practices at national level. Capacity gap analysis was conducted, and capacity enhancement activities were conducted for the relevant government and community groups to enhance capacity for better performance.

Adaptive Management

72. Risk assessments were conducted regularly in every quarter and reviewed during Steering Committee meetings. Similarly, risks were also reviewed in annual project implementation reviews. The social and Environmental Screening Procedure has assessed the primary social and environmental risks arising from the Project including the level of significance of those risks and identifying what social and environmental assessment and management measures should be adopted.
73. Post-COVID, the project faced some risks, mainly that the number of observers decreased in November-December 2023. To address this the project supported the facilitation of the Certificate IV Training and Assessment course (Coded CET4), delivered with the help of USP, to PIRFO Trainee Trainers. This course helped to rebuild the number of qualified PIRFO observers by establishing locally based trainers.

4.3.2 Work Planning

74. The GEF endorsed the project for implementation on 19 December 2019, and the representatives of all fourteen countries approved the project document on 20 January 2020. The inception workshop was held on 19 October 2022. Delivery of the first funding instalment from GEF took place on 1 August 2022. By the MTR point a total of US\$ 3,592,557.90, i.e., 36% of the GEF funds, have been spent. The project strategy and results framework were thoroughly reviewed during the project inception workshop, and annual planning was also done. There were no major changes made to the result framework during the inception workshop.

4.3.3 Actual Stakeholder Participation

75. At the project implementation phase, one of the nominated project partners – PITIA – was not able to participate as it had ceased to function. To address this, the project worked with other partners to deliver the relevant activities.
76. The project worked with a wide range of stakeholders including FFA, WCPFC, SPC, PNA, Pacific government representatives, NGOs, private sector, and academic and research institutions. The stakeholders participating in project activities are:

Stakeholders	Role in the project
SPC	Involved in project development and contributes to implementation of project activities through 'sub-contract' agreement with FFA
Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Main project implementing agency. Involved from the project development phase.
Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Members	Beneficiary countries and members of PSC
WCPFC Members	Involve via technical committee and through feedback on management strategies.
Parties to the Nauru Agreement	Capacity building for improving monitoring.
UNDP	Implementing agency
Academic Institutions	Contributed to project development and also in research, peer review and advising on stock assessment studies.

FAO	Contributed through conducting studies on alternative income generation options and conducting activities related to alternative income generation.
GEF	Donor.
NGO Communities	WWF contributed to outcomes 2.1; 2.2 and 4.1.
Fisher Communities	Involved in activities for the promotion of domestic fishery development and local value-added fishing ventures.
Private Sector	PITIA was planned to be involved but it was not in function so dropped.
WWF	Contributed to outcomes 2.1; 2.2 and 4.1.
The International MCS Network (IMCSN)	Contribute in MCS training.
World Bank	Supported training workshop on FADs.

4.3.4 Finance and co-finance

77. The total project cost as per the project document was US\$102,720,668, which includes US\$25,860,958 in cash and US\$76,859,710 in kind. The GEF contribution to the total project cost was expected to be US\$10,000,000 in cash, while the governments of the fourteen project countries, in addition to FFA, WWF, Parties to the Nauru Agreement, and Pacific Community were expected to make cash contributions of US\$15,860,958. Of the committed amount from GEF (US\$10,000,000), the actual amount received by the mid-term point was US\$3,592,557.90. Of the in-kind contribution, detailed information setting out the contribution from the committed parties is presented in Annex 6.8.
78. The MTR sighted the 2022 annual audit report (“Agreed upon procedures report”), which made some minor procedural recommendations. The UNDP BRH and FFA closely monitored financial transactions and program implementation processes as part of their standard monitoring practices.
79. As per the project document, the project management costs were within the budgeted amount and none of the expenses have exceeded the budgeted amount in any phase. Total spending by the mid-term point was US\$10,995,927.70 in cash and US\$35,394,595.56 in-kind. Committed co-financing by the governments and other organizations at design was US\$93,220,668, which creates a co-financing ratio of 10:90 (GEF: govts & other organizations), which is a very good ratio in terms of good practice.
80. Analysis of budgeted and actual expenditure does not show any major differences. The expenses correspond to work accomplishment in those respective phases. Costs under Component 1 have been greater than budgeted in the ProDoc, because it includes several important capacity enhancement programs. Conversely, there are several donor-funded projects in Component 2, which allowed some sharing of costs between projects (i.e. activities continued despite increase in costs, e.g. airfares post-COVID). So there has been more flexibility in funding under Component 2. These were monitored through the budgeting process and transfer of funds between components up to 10% is managed through Steering Committee decision. But if it exceeds a 10% threshold then a higher level decision would be required.

81. The implementing partner raised the issue of delay in disbursement of money from UNDP, which could affect the implementation of the activities. The project also faced issues with partners like SPC and PNA relating to the eligibility of certain costs. The first issue involved charging a 'management fee' i.e. certain percentage for the institution as agency fees for running the project and as per GEF rules there is no provision for such payments. The second issue was that some PNA works (e.g. employment of consultants) did not follow the required procurement rules. This was resolved by utilizing PNA Office funding only in areas where their procurement processes are compliant. Both cases were raised as a concern by UNDP following the UNDP/KPMG Spot check in 2023. To mitigate this, the PM worked with the FFA Corporate Services team to carry out verification checks as specified by KPMG.
82. At the time of the MTR the project spent 45% of the project money (36% of GEF money) while about 90% of MTR targets have been achieved, so it is considered cost-effective.
83. The FFA signed a partnership agreement with PITIA in 2022 to the value of up to US\$150,000. This was in line with the ProDoc that specifies a role for PITIA. But later PITIA ceased to function. No funds were transferred under this contract. These funds are potentially available for other purposes under the project.
84. There were some delays in recruiting staff in both FFA and SPC and due to that some activities were delayed but the MTR team found it resolved. The project also faced difficulties in contracting a suitable consultant to complete the required social and environmental safeguard planning documents. Later, by getting advice from UNDP safeguard specialists and contracting a second consultant this issue was also resolved.
85. The in-kind contributions were used for different purposes according to the role of the agency. For example:
- UNDP: Project oversight beyond the GEF fee
 - 14 countries: In-country implementation of new management strategies, legislative alignment, and attendance at FFA, SPC and WCPFC meetings.
 - SPC: Workshops, training, transshipment data/info Management and modelling.
 - FFA: Project Coordination, training, workshops, project monitoring, support to Member countries at national level
 - PNA Office: Workshops, training, Systems Development Sci/Tech Symposia, software development.
 - WWF: Education and Outreach, Social Media Campaigns and training. Interface with industry, Development of Management plans, Tech/Business level assistance and to improve monitoring.
86. At all times, the chair of the PSC has been kept abreast of the project's progress through good reporting and this has allowed the necessary budget revisions to be made on a sound basis. Similarly, the link between the FFA, focal person from each country and the UNDP BRH has been efficient in ensuring that budget replenishments have been timely as far as practicable. The project partners from different countries mentioned that the fund disbursement from UNDP is very slow due to lengthy bureaucratic process affecting program implementation.

4.3.5 Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

M&E Design

87. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan was designed as per the standard. The project results framework included objectives, outcomes, and outputs very clearly, with baseline information and target indicators to monitor progress of the project. The output targets were also very realistic, time bound and within the budget. This project is developed to address the root causes of the threats and potential impacts identified by the TDA and implement the SAP strategies. Roles and responsibilities of the partners were made clear from the project design phase. The indicators of the log-frame were all Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. The inception workshop was conducted before initiating project activities. All activities were listed and explained with clear responsibilities. Baselines were already set in the Project Document and were gender disaggregated. The inclusion of indicators for each activity was not only appropriate and useful for evaluation but also good for management purposes. The activity targets have given priority to women in training, alternative livelihood activities and management of marine resources of the Pacific.

The design of the M&E framework was fully itemized and adequately costed in the Project Document, covering all the various M&E steps – including the allocation of responsibilities and provision for monitoring of technical aspects. The feedback mechanisms were also **Satisfactory**. Similarly, targets were realistic for the timeframe. Some indicators need to be SMART-aligned, which will also aid the M&E process. Monitoring and evaluation design has been evaluated as **Satisfactory**.

M&E Implementation

88. Monitoring and evaluation of the project activities has been undertaken in varying detail at three levels:
- i. Progress monitoring
 - ii. Internal activity monitoring
 - iii. Impact monitoring
89. Progress monitoring was good and was being carried out by the UNDP BRH through annual reporting and accompanied by periodic project site visits. At the end of each phase, the annual work plans were developed with help of the project staff and the UNDP BRH and then submitted for endorsement by the PSC. The UNDP BRH and FFA maintained regular communication, with the implementing team tracking progress to confirm that it is implemented as per the work plan. The indicators from the results framework were realistic and effective in measuring progress and performance. Project management has also ensured that the Bangkok Regional Hub of UNDP received annual progress reports providing updates on the status of planned activities, the status of the overall project schedule, and deliverables completed. The report format contained quantitative estimates of project progress based on financial disbursements. The UNDP BRH generated its own quarterly financial reports. These expenditure records, together with the disbursement records of any direct payments, served as a basis for expenditure monitoring and budget revisions – the latter

taking place bi-annually following the disbursement progress and changes in the operational work plan, and also on an *ad hoc* basis depending upon the rate of delivery.

90. The annual reports containing major findings and observations from the period of July to June are forwarded to stakeholders by UNDP BRH. Similarly, the PIR was prepared each year informing progress made by the project. PSC members are provided with all key reports before the PSC meetings, and through these means, key national ministries/departments are informed on the progress made by the project.
91. The project implementing agency (UNDP BRH) and executing agency (FFA) and PMU had a good working relationship, with regular communication and to discuss issues as required.
92. The project identified risks at the design phase with mitigation measures. Risks have been reviewed and updated annually by the UNDP BRH and FFA, along with adequate management responses. For the monitoring purpose, the project had allocated US\$189,800 from GEF budget and this is sufficient budget for M&E activities. Some monitoring activities were also conducted by stakeholders through their own co-financing budget.
93. Internal activity monitoring undertaken by the project involving UNDP BRH, FFA, representatives of relevant agencies of each county, and the PMU appears to have been good and includes several mechanisms to inform people on the situation and to respond quickly and effectively to any areas of concern. Appropriate methods were used to track progress, and implementation of the Annual Work Plan. The project team members were in frequent contact with each other and had effective communication mechanisms for monitoring procedures and the FFA Members were also in frequent contact.
94. The project had well developed Impact monitoring provision, with formal protocols in place to measure the functioning of improved ecosystem-based management, evidence-based planning, improved data management, and sustainable harvest of tuna. Research Scientists were involved in conducting studies for assessing impacts. Undoubtedly, this has arisen due to the scientific background of the project design team, enhanced by the technical staff and managers. The project also demonstrated adaptive management by promoting evidence-based decision making using data from the project research activities.
95. The monitoring Plan provides for a Mid-term Review at the middle point (36 months after CEO endorsement) of the project and Terminal evaluation at the end of the project for independent evaluation of the project relevance, achievements, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact and cross-cutting issues.

M&E implementation has been **Satisfactory**, with progress monitoring and internal activity monitoring. The risk assessments and feedback system were good, hence the implementation of monitoring and evaluation has been evaluated as **Satisfactory**.

Gender Equity and Women Empowerment/Cross-cutting issues

96. The project design and implementation recognized gender differences and gender disparity so the gender equity and empowerment aspect was given priority from the project development phase. The project encouraged 50% of women's participation in all trainings and also conducted a study to identify alternative livelihood options focusing on women, to support livelihoods and economic independence. The Gender Inequality Index (GII), which analyses three critical elements that

reflect gender inequalities (reproductive health, empowerment, and participation in the labor force), was used to measure gender-based inequalities. A Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming Plan was developed during development of the project document and included as Annex 10 (to the Prodoc).

97. The UNDP-GEF project's gender mainstreaming efforts were guided by the Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and contributed to its implementation both at the regional level and national levels. The Gender Management plan was also discussed in the Project Inception Workshop and this meeting helped to generate clarity and understanding on the importance of gender and the pivotal role that women play in the management and safeguarding of ocean, ecosystem and fishing communities at a local, national and regional level.
98. During project implementation period there was appropriate focus on increasing the participation of women in training and workshop activities. The fisheries sector in the Pacific remains a predominantly male sector, however, the participation and role of women in fisheries continues to be increasing recognized. Notably, capacity development for fisheries staff in the areas of stock assessment and tuna data management had a higher proportion of women participants. This training was directly supported by the project through the funding of the stock assessment and tuna data workshops. At the community level, direct beneficiaries of training in the deployment of FADs remains predominantly male given the division of labor within communities. Women are indirect beneficiaries in the communities, as FADs provide greater access to pelagic resources for communities, including subsequent benefits for livelihoods, food security and the sustainability of coastal ecosystem (indicators 14 and 15).
99. In May 2024, FFA's Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy was endorsed at regional level which outlined priority areas to advance gender and social inclusion in the tuna fisheries sector. The Strategy development was evidence-based, and informed by a comprehensive analysis of gender and social inclusion within tuna fisheries. The integration of gender and social inclusion in national fisheries policies and strategies continued as part of the project's direct contribution to reviewing and re-drafting National Tuna Management and Development Plans (Indicator 6). As part of regional partnership engagement, FFA partnered with SPC to host the inaugural Gender and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Symposium in April 2024. This first-of-its-kind event paved the way for ongoing collaboration between the two organizations on both coastal and offshore fisheries. The symposium provided a platform to discuss issues and proposed solutions to address challenges hindering the quantification of women's roles and socio-economic contributions in fisheries, and empower small-scale fish entrepreneurs and enhance inclusive participation in fisheries management and development including decision making at all levels. The symposium resulted in three key areas for joint focus: improving gender data for informed policy and investment decisions, value-adding initiatives and undertaking a regional study on gender-based violence in Pacific fisheries. The Symposium was attended by 55 participants from across the region (13 men, 42 women).
100. The PMU advised that it is investigating the possibility of reallocating the project funding tagged to PITIA to promote specific gender-related activities. The project is limited to GEN 2 but since the fisheries sector is male dominated, there could be risk of gender violence and exploitations. Hence, activities should be developed related to advocacy and awareness generation on gender violence and exploitation. This will move the project from GEN 2 to GEN 3 stage. The Gender action plan has analyzed Gender violence and exploitation in all project countries. As per the plan

of action on gender, activities need to be developed and implemented. Project training and workshops benefitted 48% women.

4.3.6 Social and Environmental Standards

101. The project has strictly followed UNDP environment and social safeguard requirements during the development phase. The project designing exercise also assessed environmental and social issues and threats to ocean ecosystems and fish populations because local communities' livelihoods are highly dependent on fish and marine ecosystems. Nine SES risks were identified and, of these, three were rated as 'Low', and the rest 'Moderate'. Mitigation measures were proposed for each of the risks. The activities and implementation modalities also considered social norms. Programs were developed to address threats to fish populations and marine ecosystems. Weak monitoring, impacts of climate change and over fishing were identified as the main threats to the ocean of Pacific region. To address these problems the project developed sustainable harvest practices, improved monitoring practices, and supported ecosystem-based management. The activities of the project were designed to avoid harm to any local, social and cultural values.
102. Fisheries and resource management in the WCPO takes into account the ecosystem-based approach. It is expected that the project interventions will result in improved ecosystems in the targeted ocean areas by reducing risks to environmental sustainability. Efforts were made to mainstream gender, and empower women and girls through training, involvement in decision making and providing economic incentives through alternative livelihood options. The executing agency (FFA) is developing a Gender Strategy which also includes provisions for addressing gender inclusion, gender violation and gender exploitation. No socio-economic or environmental changes have occurred since the beginning of the project implementation and also no other major external contributing factors occurred that affect the progress of the project.

4.3.7 Reporting

103. The project prepared two PIRs, and two PSC meetings were held by the mid-term review stage. Information on adaptive management, evidence-based decision making practices, and progress made under the project were covered in the PIR's. There were significant changes in the project implementation arrangements compared to the prior project – OFMP 2. This included changes in project organizational structure, management responsibilities, (from UNDP Fiji to UNDP BRH) and role and responsibilities of executing, implementing agencies and other partners. These aspects were discussed and documented in the project inception report. Adaptive management measures associated with the shortage of Observers in post-COVID have been implemented (conducted training of trainers). The project also developed a number of reports, including progress reports by the specialist consultants hired by the project.

4.3.8 Communications and Knowledge Management

104. The project has activities for knowledge management and sharing. Outcome 4.1 includes activities that contribute to knowledge management, communication and awareness generation and outreach. This includes management of project delivery, documentation of best practices and lessons learnt, and disseminating information to a wider range of audiences for their advantage. These programs also aim to promote awareness on the status of fisheries and eco-labelling of fish and seafood products from certified fisheries, along with robust systems for tracing fish products.

This highlights the need for more selective marketing to encourage consumer awareness of sustainability of the stocks and ecosystems when purchasing fisheries products. The success of the model used by the PNA will be captured and replicated where appropriate. This outcome also proposes strengthening the ‘clearing house’ role of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS). M&E and the adaptive management process is strongly linked to the development of good communication channels that will permit feedback from stakeholders and mechanisms to react to this feedback.

105. A communication strategy was developed and adopted and is delivering outreach and awareness activities through a Knowledge Management consultant recruited under the project. PNAO supported an RMI joint venture with a major US retail chain Walmart to continue and expand MSC certified fish supply to US market. An article has been published on the RMI-Walmart agreement.
106. The project has started to deliver on implementing the strategy, specifically through revision of the FFA website; 10,452 visitors and 18,464 views have been recorded in the project website, 16 articles written and published, as well as growth in social media with 6,900 followers on the project Facebook page and 30,700 impressions. A summary of lessons and best practices from the three OFMP phases is progressing, with five draft chapters to be captured in a ‘lessons learnt’ report. This is to be shared with other RFMO and LMEs through the next International Waters IW: Learn conference in September 2024. In order to support improved communication, OFMP3 hosted a regional communications training workshop on communication strategy and planning in tuna fisheries in July 2023 in Fiji which was participated by 13 communication professionals (6 men and 7 women). A round of stakeholder engagement was undertaken with 15 stakeholders (11 men and 4 women) in May 2024 to provide background information for development of the ESIA, and assist in the identification of potential impacts and risks and inform the next stages of project implementation.

4.4 Sustainability

107. The project interventions are at three levels i.e., i) at the multi-national level, ii) at the national level and iii) at the community level. The results from all three levels are likely to be sustainable. For the risks that were identified, mitigation measures are provided and by the period of MTR, no such risk affected project activities.

4.4.1 Financial risk to Sustainability

108. The outlook for the long-term financial sustainability of the project appears good as the governments of each country have given it high priority and UNDP is interested in continuing its support for this initiative. The region (SPC and FFA members) has already established a strong institutional and financial base which can further support the outcome of this project. Agencies involved in this project mentioned that their support will continue to enhance the results of the project. Since the project is in line with the governments’ priorities, they may allocate budget spending to replicate the good practices from this project. SPC, in conjunction with FFA and other partners, is developing a proposal for GCF, and the activities to be delivered through this proposal also support continuation of results of this project. In view of this, financial sustainability is therefore **Likely**.

4.4.2 Socioeconomic risk to Sustainability

109. The risk to social sustainability of the project appears low. The awareness-raising activities will inform people at regional, national and community levels and that will help to support sustainability through ecosystem-based management, mitigating climate change risks, and adaptive management practices. Empowering local communities through awareness raising and supporting them with capacity building activities is expected to encourage behavioral changes for the sustainability of the project results. The supportive environment created through the project activities will further increase support base and that could be an attraction for other agencies to replicate the good practices of this project. Therefore, the socioeconomic sustainability is rated as **Likely**.

4.4.3 Institutional and Governance risk to Sustainability

110. The institutional sustainability of the project is good. The project had identified alternative livelihood activities to decrease dependency of livelihood on fishing and make communities resilient to climate change impacts on fish ecosystems. This will help to generate local support for ocean management activities. The project worked with the FFA and relevant national agencies to support ecosystem-based management of fisheries, and improved monitoring systems to strengthen evidence-based decision making. Responsible authorities are sensitized to the management of ocean resources and fish populations, reduction of pollution in the ocean and reduction of climate induced effects for the improvement of the WCPO region. This could contribute to emphasizing ecosystem management in government's priorities and planning. Similarly, all the FFA Members have robust environmental policies and laws, and the project results are guided by these laws and policies. Note, however, that these laws and policies are not always harmonized between countries, indicating differentiated policy priorities between countries that can at times limit joint management initiatives. The project is supporting ecosystem-based management, with provisions of updating using information from monitoring and making management decision evidence-based. Therefore, the institutional sustainability is ranked as **Likely**.

4.4.4 Environmental risk to Sustainability

111. The project itself is designed to address environmental aspects, so environmental sustainability is one of the most important elements of the project strategy. The project has activities to address climate change related and development related risks and to improve ecosystem maintenance of ecosystem functions. The capacity development and evidence-based planning increase the likelihood that project outcomes are sustainable. The project outcomes will contribute to the maintenance of the ecological functions of the ocean areas. By the end of the project, once remaining activities are completed, it will have developed local stewardship for maintaining the ocean beyond the project life. The project also helps to reduce ocean pollution, impacts on fish population, and impacts of climate change, and also improve sustainable fisheries management in the WCPO. Hence the environmental sustainability is **Likely**.

The overall sustainability of the project results is ranked as **Likely**.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

112. The project has accomplished most of the mid-term targets. To address fisheries management and ecosystem/climate change problems, the project intervened in six areas: awareness generation, enhancing capacity of relevant institutions, improve monitoring practices, promote ecosystem-based management, promote evidence-based decision making and provide alternative livelihood options to local communities. The project has supported significant improvement in inter-governmental collaboration (transboundary). The project has helped to bring together different partners, researchers and ocean managers from different disciplines related to ocean science and management through a range of activities (conference, seminar etc). Regarding the specific project activities and mid-term targets:
- Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and processed for local consumption in 10 of the 14 Pacific SIDS while target was in three of the participating countries (exceeded MTR target).
 - Catch documentation scheme requirements and enforcement on all EEZ fishing operation is not done yet.
 - The project has hired a communication and knowledge management expert to facilitate communication and knowledge management activities for awareness generation at different levels. For knowledge sharing, the project provided information to improve Country Webpages to provide detailed and relevant data to each member country and in line with this, a revision of the FFA website also occurred (as part of FFA in-kind contribution), in order to update relevant information.
 - Adoption of sustainable harvest strategy and associated targets and limits for skipjack tuna occurred in the first year of the project. Similarly, adoption of a harvest strategy and associated target and reference points for a second tuna stock, South Pacific albacore, is on track.
 - Two new climate change commitments were endorsed: the FFA Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Implementation Plan. Similarly, the WCPFC agreed to include climate change as a standing agenda item at the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (scientific committee, Northern Committee and Technical Committee), and consider ecosystem and climate change indicators in management decisions. The decision covers all the highly migratory stocks the WCPFC is concerned with, including the four tuna species and billfish species including marlin and swordfish.
 - Nearshore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics is occurring in all 14 participating countries, which is more than target as MTR target was only five countries.
113. Though the pace of project implementation was slow in the first year, it gained speed and accomplished so many activities by 30 June 2024 and this assures that the few mid-term targets that are not achieved will be completed soon, and by the end of the project life all targets will be achieved, and some impact could be expected.
114. The project also supported a regional ecosystem monitoring program which was led by a senior Fisheries Scientist at SPC. Key results based on these studies are published in peer reviewed

journals. The project has demonstrated inter-agency and Inter-project collaboration. The project has been underpinned by good science and a technical approach of high caliber, which helped maintain the technical standard of the interventions.

- 115 Among the beneficiaries, 48% were women and this achievement is very positive sign as the fisheries sector is traditionally dominated by men. From a gender perspective, the project was found to be more focused towards gender equity and empowerment than gender violence and exploitation.
- 116 Some gaps in understanding were evident about requirements of UNDP BRH (actually requirements of GEF) regarding recruitment and hiring of staff and consultants by SPC and PNA and their salaries, as well as the eligibility of management fees. This created significant misunderstanding between agencies, which was later resolved.
117. The project has trained staff of the relevant institutions on various disciplines, developed and endorsed sustainable fishing strategies and also developing alternative livelihood options for communities (focusing women) to decrease pressure on the coastal resources. FFA and the governments of the project countries assured support to continue results of the project. These activities will help to make outcomes of the project interventions sustainable. The capacity enhancement and establishment of coordination forum will also help in making outcomes of the project sustainable. Moreover, various other projects also have activities similar to this project so they will also support continuity of results from this project. There are also proposals being developed for GCF money and the activities identified in these projects supports sustainability of outcomes of this project.

5.2 Recommendations

Rec. No.	MTR Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
Relevance/Up scaling			
1.	Lessons learned (positive or negative) from this project should be documented and shared with wide range of audiences to extend benefits from the project and utilize learnings for other projects.	UNDP BRH/FFA	Immediately after MTR.
2.	It is recommended in all future projects of UNDP, that the reporting provisions, ToR of staff, and salaries should be discussed with the implementing partners before signing the contract. Similarly, FFA should also make itself fully aware of all UNDP or GEF requirements before signing the project contract. FFA should also make such issues clear to other partners that may sub-contract various activities, and therefore be subject to the same UNDP or GEF conditions.	UNDP BRH/FFA	In Future projects.
3.	There is a need to strengthen gender and cross-cutting aspects of the project. There should be a program to build female leadership in the fisheries sector through enhancing capacity. Programs to strengthen the economic status of women should also be implemented to increase economic self-reliance. The gender action plan analyzed gender violence in all project countries. Based on this, the project should also	PMU should recommend activities and seek approval from SC to submit to GEF through UNDP BRH.	Immediately after the MTR.

	promote advocacy and awareness programs to avoid gender violence and exploitation in the fisheries sector.		
Design			
4.	<p>Indicators should be clearly defined i.e. they should be SMART⁵. It is recommended that the indicators of the result framework be reviewed and revised as follows:</p> <p>Indicator 1: Training of staff is mentioned but on what subject is not clear. Similarly, the target number of beneficiaries is mentioned but it is not clear whether the target is including the baseline number or in addition to the baseline.</p> <p>Indicator 3: The MTR and end of project targets are in different units; the MTR target is Adoption of sustainable Harvest Strategies and associated Targets and Limits in at least 2 Tuna zones out of 4, while the end of project target is 3600mil ha. Either the MTR target should also be area of Tuna zone in ha or the end of project target should be in 4 Tuna zone.</p> <p>Indicator 6: Indicators related to Policy development and application do not specify subjects.</p> <p>Indicator 7: The target does not specify in which subject staff should be trained. Similarly, the target does not indicate whether the representation in the training will represent each of the project countries, and also does not clarify by what number per country. In addition, the project document does not clarify on what basis the MTR or end of project target number or % are calculated. It is recommended to clarify the basis of calculating the target number or percentage.</p> <p>Indicator 9: The targets involve a complex set of achievements in different technical areas – it would be helpful to ‘disentangle’ these for clarity.</p> <p>Indicator 10: Need to clarify, e.g. to reflect that national licensing is not within the control of the project or FFA.</p>	PMU should work with M&E expert to suggest to UNDP and GEF the clarifications that are most urgently needed across all indicators and use them as basis for approval.	Immediately after MTR
Implementation/Management			
5.	A few activities are behind the target level. Hence, it is recommended that they should be completed as early as possible to enable achievement of all targets by project completion.	FFA/PMU	In the second half of the project
6.	Due to long administrative formalities, money disbursement has been slow in some cases. Hence it is recommended that the UNDP BRH should address this issue and assure that the delay in transfer of funds will not affect implementation of project activities. UNDP should also communicate with the FFA/PMU to discuss these issues to resolve the problem.	UNDP BRH	Immediately after MTR
7.	The position of climate change expert in FFA is currently vacant. There is need for more climate change expertise to study impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems to analyze loss and damage. It is recommended that this position be filled to provide additional resources in this field.	FFA	Initiate immediately after MTR

⁵ SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Bound

8.	Few countries have their own labelling or certifying mechanism. FFA should consider working with those countries to assess the viability of certification at national or sub-regional level.	FFA	Initiate immediately after MTR
9.	The activities of the Component 1 are under-budgeted while there is savings in Component 2 (due to conducting programs jointly with other partners). It is recommended that the PMU should prepare a cost analysis and make recommendations (with justifications) to PSC for endorsement and subsequent GEF approval through UNDP BRH.	PMU	Initiate immediately after MTR.
10.	PITIA is no longer a functional entity as envisaged at project design. Activities identified for delivery through PITIA are being conducted with the help of other projects. Hence, it is recommended that PMU should analyze costs and alternative uses for this funding and make recommendations to the PSC for endorsement and subsequent GEF approval through UNDP BRH.	PMU	Immediately after MTR.
11.	Implementation of endorsed National Tuna Management and Development Plans is important for sustainability and ensuring national benefits. Hence, FFA/PMU should coordinate (advocate) with the relevant ministry of participating countries to implement endorsed Plans.	FFA/PMU	Immediately after MTR.
12.	The PMU should develop an exit strategy before the end of the project, including information related to sustainability of the project results. This should also include information about all potential supports that could help to continue project outcomes beyond the project life.	PMU	Before the end of the project.

5.3 Lessons Learned

118. As noted earlier the project is the third in a series of projects involving the three regional partners (FFA, SPC and the PNA Office) focusing on the regional tuna fisheries and supported through the GEF and UNDP/FAO. In this sense the project involves a set of mature relationships, particularly between the three Pacific agencies which have a track record of working together to support fisheries management in the Pacific Islands region. This provides the context for two lessons arising from the project
119. Lesson 1: The Pacific agencies involved have continued to demonstrate their technical expertise and administrative competence following on from the previous project. The three agencies have complementary expertise and have demonstrated again through this project that they are able to work effectively and efficiently to support sustainable fisheries management in the WCPO.
120. Lesson 2: The current project has introduced some new conditions that the Pacific agencies had not experienced in the prior projects in the 'OFMP' series. The new administrative processes and conditions (including such issues as eligible costs) have been a source of delay in the early part of project implementation. In the Evaluation's view the changes in GEF / UNDP requirements should have been communicated more clearly to FFA at the outset to ensure readiness for implementation.
121. This had flow-on effects for the relationship between FFA and its partner agencies ('responsible entities'), in that the contractual arrangements between parties had to be revisited to remain compliant with the GEF/UNDP requirements. Greater clarity at the outset would have ensured that all parties were aware of the conditions (through their respective due diligence processes) prior to agreeing the partnership contracts.
122. Lesson 3: The project includes a clear focus on climate change in terms of its effects on sustainability and management of regional tuna fisheries. This is delivered primarily through two funded positions – a scientific/research position in SPC, and a role at FFA providing climate change related advice to inform fisheries management and development planning. In both cases the roles focus on complex long-term issues that will play out over a time scale of decades. It is evident that climate change is a key challenge for Pacific Island countries and territories and will require ongoing support. The Pacific 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent⁶ provides context for the long-term regional focus on oceans sustainability and development in a world experiencing climate change.



⁶ <https://forumsec.org/2050>

6. ANNEX

ANNEX 6.1: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MID-TERM REVIEW (ATTACHED SEPARATELY)

ANNEX 6.2: EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Criteria/Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
<p>Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objective of the GEF focal area, country priorities and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national level? Is project related to country priority and how project address country priorities? Whether the project is aligned/ related to the RBAP Regional programme document (2022-2025) and UNDP Strategic plan (2022-2025)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project objectives and activities related to objective of GEF focal area and priorities at national, local and regional level • Consistency and contribution to GEF focal area objectives and to national development strategies • Stakeholder views on project’s significance and potential impact related to the project objective • Related to national priorities and RBAP Regional Programme Document and UNDP Strategy Plan (2022-2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents, report vs GEF document and Government development plans, UNDP Regional Programme Document (2022-2025) and UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025). • Interview stakeholders at different level (regional, national and local levels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project report review in the light of GEF and UNDP documents and government’s national development priorities • Interviews with relevant personnel
Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			
<p>Achievements: Are there indications that the project has completed its midterm targets that contributed to, or enabled progress towards improved management of coastal ecosystem for improved ecosystem resilience and reduced vulnerability? Has capacity of the relevant institutions improved to strengthen, adopt, implement, and enforce strategic management? Are promoting mandatory offloading in ports and a ban on all at-sea transshipment implemented? Has operational Stakeholder and Partnership Engagement Strategy for the project lifetime and beyond established? Are targeted area of marine habitat brought under improved practices to benefit biodiversity? Are targeted number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) brought under new or improved cooperative management? Is regional project Stakeholder/Partnership Engagement Programme implemented through agreements with various sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management of coastal ecosystem for improved ecosystem resilience and reduced vulnerability. • Capacity of government staffs and communities enhanced to strengthening, adopting, implementing and enforcing strategic management. • Mandatory offloading in ports and a ban on all at-sea transshipment implemented. • Operational Stakeholder and Partnership Engagement Strategy established for the project life time and beyond. • Midterm level targeted area of marine habitat brought under improved practices to benefit biodiversity. • Mid-term targeted number of shared water ecosystems brought under new improved cooperative management. • Regional project Stakeholder/Partnership Engagement Programme implemented through agreement with various sectors and institutions. • Improved mechanisms and overage for monitoring and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Reports • Technical reports. • Interview with stakeholders. • Observation in the field. • Result framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of project reports/documents. • Interaction with local to national level stakeholders. • Field observation. • Analysis of RF in light of the issues that project aimed to address.

<p>and institutions and delivering technical and business level support to Pacific SIDS on improving management and benefits from domestic fisheries, support scientific and technical studies related to ecosystem management and climate change adaptation as well as MCS? Is effective implementation of improved mechanisms and coverage for monitoring and catch documentation including e-monitoring of catch and catch documentation in Pacific SIDS EEZs and high seas completed or initiated? Is knowledge capture programme implemented for monitoring changes and impacts within the ecosystem related to sustainability of the migratory tuna stocks and associated species?</p> <p>To what extent scientific and technical data capture and knowledge inputs as an adaptive management tool used to improve the socioeconomic welfare and long-term wellbeing of the Pacific SIDS?</p> <p>Are communities aware of the benefits and access to pelagic food sources versus coastal fisheries to reduce pressure on latter?</p> <p>Are youth and gender focused alternative income generation as adaptive response to changes in the ecosystem implemented?</p> <p>Is consumer-based sustainable management strategies adopted through eco-levelling and certification of fisheries using existing models such as PNA?</p> <p>Is communication strategy adopted and experiences, lessons (if any) and best practices captured and up scaled/replicated to other RFMO regions and LMEs (or planned)?</p> <p>Is result framework appropriate to analyse the progress towards the objectives? Are activities and indicators SMART?</p> <p>Are activities and indicators in result framework (RF) relevant to address the targeted objectives and outcomes?</p>	<p>catch documentation including e-monitoring of catch and documentation effectively implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge capture programme implemented for monitoring changes and impacts within the ecosystem related to sustainability of the migratory tuna stocks and associated species. • Captured scientific and technical data and knowledge inputs used to improve the socioeconomic welfare and long-term wellbeing of the Pacific SIDS. • Communities are aware of the benefits and access to pelagic food sources versus coastal fisheries. • Implemented youth and gender focused alternative income generation adaptive response to change in the ecosystem. • Consumer-based sustainable management strategies adopted through eco-levelling and certification of fisheries using existing models such as PNA. • Communication strategy adopted and experiences, lesson (if any), and best practices captured. • Result Framework appropriate to analyse progress. • Indicators SMART. • Indicators and activities relevant to address the targeted objectives and outcomes. 		
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Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting and project communications supporting the project's implementation?			
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently in-line with international and national norms and standards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonableness of the costs relative to scale of outputs generated Efficiencies in project delivery modalities Consistency and contribution to GEF focal area objectives and to national development strategies Changes in project circumstances that may have affected the project relevance and effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial statements Project structure and function Project document and annual reports Experience of project staffs and other relevant stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of financial statements. Analysis of project structure and functionalities Analysis of project circumstances in project document (past and present) Interaction with relevant stakeholders
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of achievement of expected outcomes or objectives to date Long term changes in Marine ecosystem management, practices and awareness that can be attributable to the project Enhanced capacity of relevant institutions Favourable management option and effective implementation of efficient and sustainable marine ecosystem management Participation of women in all activities of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the ground situation observed. Policy/strategy or program formulation activities included women and their issues incorporated. Policies/strategies/ programs effectively implemented Institutions strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report with information on effective implementation of activities and strategies Report on intuition setup Interaction with the policy level people to ground level communities and field staffs. Polity document review report. Field verification of activities
Impacts: Has the project activities addressed threats related to marine ecosystem? Are ecological functioning and resilience in the targeted ecosystem increased?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved monitoring. Increase in knowledge among staffs from management institutions and communities regarding degradation and climate change risk to Marine ecosystem and smart management. Measurable improvements from baseline levels in technical management capacity of government staffs. Area of marine ecosystem under improved ecosystem management practices. Ecological functioning and resilience of marine ecosystem improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Reports Interview with stakeholders. Observation in the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of project reports/documents. Interaction with local to national level stakeholders. Field observation.
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree to which outputs and outcomes are embedded within the institutional framework (policy, laws, organizations, procedures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project report Observation in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of project reports. Observation in the field to see impact on the ground

<p>sustaining long-term project results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of measures to assist financial sustainability of project results • Observable changes in attitudes, beliefs and behaviours as a result of the project • Change in knowledge among the local communities • Measurable improvements from baseline levels in knowledge and skills of targeted staffs. • Adaptive management using knowledge base to improve management practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with stakeholders
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SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress.

i. Project Strategy and Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provided the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Reviewing how the project addressed country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country
- Reviewing decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
 - Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design.
 - If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement in future initiatives

Result Framework:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe targets indicators, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets were (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound),
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future, catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved resilience etc.
- Examine whether broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively.

Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Were the context, problem, needs and priorities well analyzed and reviewed during project initiation and implementation?
- Were the planned project objectives and outcomes relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground?
- Is the project Theory of Change (ToC) and intervention logic coherent and realistic? Does the ToC and intervention logic hold or did it need to be adjusted?
- Do outputs link to intended outcomes which link to broader paradigm shift objectives of the project?
- Are the planned inputs and strategies identified realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the results? Were they sequenced sufficiently to efficiently deliver the expected results?
- Are the outputs being achieved in a timely manner? Is this achievement supportive of the ToC and pathways identified?
- What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the overall outputs and outcomes of the project (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- To what extent is the project able to demonstrate changes against the baseline (assessment in approved Funding Proposal) for the GEF investment criteria (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project?
- How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation?
- To what extent did the project's M&E data and mechanism(s) contribute to achieving project results?
- Was any change made to project implementation or any activities modified based on feedback from monitoring?
- Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing; etc.)?
- Was the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently?
- To what extent did the design of the project help or hinder achieving its own goals?
- Were there clear objectives, ToC and strategy? How were these used in performance management and progress reporting?
- Were there clear baselines indicators and/or benchmark for performance measurements? How were these used in project management? To what extent and how did the project apply adaptive management?
- What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project objectives?

ii. Progress Towards Results/ Outcomes Analysis:

The MTR will review the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the Guidance for Conducting Mid-term Reviews of UNDP BRH support, GEF financed projects; colour code progress in a “traffic light system” based on the level of progress achieve; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as “not on target to be achieved (red)”.

Table 1: Progress towards results Matrix (Achievement of outcomes against End-of-project Targets)

Project strategy	Indicators	Baseline level	Level in 1 st PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End of the project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
Objective:	Indicator :							
Outcome 1:	Indicator 1:							
	Indicator 2:							
Outcome 2:	Indicator 3:							
	Indicator4:							
Etc.								

- MTR team will populate the Table 1 above to summarize the progress. MTR team will complete the column “MTR level of the project and Assessment” and conclude whether the MTR-of-project target: a) has already been achieved (coloured the “MTR level & Assessment” green); is partially achieved (coloured yellow); or c) not achieved (colour red). When possible, the MTR team will review the indicator-level progress reported in the most recent PIR. Any deviations from the results reported in the PIR will be noted and explained.

Indicator Assessment Key: **Green**= Achieved **Yellow**= On target to be achieved **Red**= Not on target to be achieved

In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:

- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

iii. Management Arrangements

GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) execution factors will include:

- Whether there is an appropriate focus on results
- The adequacy of UNDP support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team
- Quality and timeliness of technical support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team
- Candour and realism in annual reporting
- The quality of risk management
- Responsiveness of the managing parties to significant implementation problems (if any)
- Any salient issues regarding project duration, for instance to note project delays, and how they may have affected project outcomes and sustainability
- Adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure.

Executing Agency/Implementing Partner’s execution factors will include:

- Whether there is an appropriate focus on results and timeliness?
- Adequacy of management inputs and processes, including budgeting and procurement

- Quality of risk management
- Candour and realism in reporting
- Government ownership
- Adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP

Work Plan

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they were solved.
- Identify if work-planning process were results-based.
- Examine the use of the project's results framework as a management tool and review any changes made to it since the project start.

Finance and Co-Finance

- Whether strong financial controls have been established that allowed the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget at any time and allow for the timely flow of funds and the payment of satisfactory project deliverables.
- Variances between planned and actual expenditures.
- Whether the project demonstrated due diligence in the management of funds, including annual audits.
- Any changes made to fund allocations because of budget revisions and the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.

Project level M&E Systems

- The quality of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan's implementation: Was the M&E plan sufficiently budgeted and funded during project preparation and implementation thus far?
- The appropriateness of the M&E systems to the project's specific context.
- Did the monitoring tools provide the necessary information? Did they involve key partners? Were they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Did they use existing information? Were they efficient? Were they cost-effective? Were additional tools required?
- The extent to which the Project Team was using inclusive, innovative, and participatory monitoring systems
- The extent to which follow-up actions, and/or adaptive management, were taken in response to the PIRs
- The extent to which development objectives were built into monitoring systems: How were perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project monitored and assessed? How were relevant groups' (including women, children, elderly, disabled, and poor) involvement with the project and the impact on them monitored?
- Adequacy of mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure

Stakeholder Engagement

MTR will include Stakeholder involvement regarding:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Did local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Did they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supported efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: How have stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives? Were there any limitations to stakeholder awareness of project outcomes or to stakeholder participation in project activities? Was there invested interest of stakeholders in the project's long-term success and sustainability?

Social and Environmental Standard (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP, and those risks' rating; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since CEO Endorsement/Approval (if any) to:
 - The project overall safeguards risk categorization
 - The identified types of risks (in the SESP)
 - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP)
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval (and prepared

during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, thought can also include aspects of a project’s design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

Gender equity

- Does the project only rely on sex-disaggregated data per population statistics?
- Are financial resources/project activities explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions?
- Does the project account in activities and planning for local gender dynamics and how project interventions affect women as beneficiaries?
- Did women as beneficiaries know their rights and/or benefits from project activities/interventions?
- How do the results for women compare to those for men?
- Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men?
- To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results?
- Did the project sufficiently address cross cutting issues including gender?

Reporting

14. The findings section of the MTR report on reporting will include:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the Project Team and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs?), and suggest trainings etc. if needed.
- Assess how the PIRs have been shared with the Project Board and other key stakeholders.
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners and incorporated into project implementation.

Communications

The MTR report section on communications will include:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of the communication loop? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and long-term investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?).

Project Implementation Rating

Based on the above mentioned assessment of the categories above, the MTR team will assign one overall Project Implementation and Adaptation Management rating from the 6-point scale: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):

Table 2: Project Implementation & Adaptation Management Rating Scale

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components (management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications) is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

iv. Sustainability

The sustainability will be analysed for four GEF categories of sustainability (financial, socio-economic, institutional framework and governance, and environmental). Sustainability is generally considered to be the likelihood of continued benefits after the project ends. At the End of the project-term evaluation, the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project outcomes will be assessed.

TABLE 3: SCALE USED TO EVALUATE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Likely (L)	There are negligible risks affecting this dimension of sustainability, with key outcomes expected to continue into the foreseeable future.
Moderately Likely (ML)	There are moderate risks that affect this dimension of sustainability, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained.
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	There are substantial risks that affect this dimension of sustainability such that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on.
Unlikely (U)	There are severe risks that affect this dimension of sustainability such that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained.

ANNEX 6.4. RATING SCALES

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

i) Criteria used to evaluate the Project by the Mid-term Review Team

ii) Scale used to evaluate the sustainability of the Project

Likely (L)	There are no risks affecting this dimension of sustainability.
Moderately Likely (ML)	There are moderate risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	There are significant risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.
Unlikely (U)	There are severe risks that affect this dimension of sustainability.

iii) Rating scale for outcomes and progress towards “intermediate states”

Outcome Rating	Rating on progress toward Intermediate States
D: The project’s intended outcomes were not delivered	D: No measures taken to move towards intermediate states.
C: The project’s intended outcomes were delivered, but were not designed to feed into a continuing process after project funding	C: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started, but have not produced results.
B: The project’s intended outcomes were delivered, and were designed to feed into a continuing process, but with no prior allocation of responsibilities after project funding	B: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which give no indication that they can progress towards the intended long term impact.
A: The project’s intended outcomes were delivered, and were designed to feed into a continuing process, with specific allocation of responsibilities after project funding.	A: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which clearly indicate that they can progress towards the intended long term impact.

NOTE: If the outcomes above scored C or D, there are no need to continue forward to score intermediate stages given that achievement of such is then not possible.

ANNEX 6.5: ITINERARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW

1. Deliverable	2. Description	3. Timing	4. Responsibilities
1. Submission of MTR Inception Report	MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	29 July, 2024	MTR team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2. Finalization of MTR Inception Report	Commissioning Unit, GEF Unit and project management review and approve inception report.	5 August, 2024	Commissioning Unit, GEF Unit and project management
3. MTR mission	Consultant will visit selected countries to collect firsthand information and face-to-face interviews with stakeholders. Arun and Bruce will interview stakeholders from all project countries virtually (online).	5 August, 2024	MTR team and Project Manager
4. Presentation	Initial Findings	10 Sept, 2024	MTR Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
5. Draft MTR Report	Full draft report (using guidelines on content outlines in Annex I with annexes.	25 Sept, 2024	Sent to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit.
6. Final Report and audit trail	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	25 October, 2024	Sent to the Commissioning Unit

Dates	Location / Meeting	Stakeholders / notes
5th August (Monday)	Travel Wellington (New Zealand) to Manila (Philippines)	
6th – 9th August	Manila, Philippines; Scientific Committee of regional Tuna Commission: FFA preparatory meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All project participating countries - Regional agencies: FFA, SPC, PNA - Project partner; WWF - others as available
10th August (Saturday)	Travel from Manila (Philippines) to Brisbane (Australia)	
11th August (Sunday)	Travel from Brisbane (Australia) to Honiara (Solomon Islands)	

12th – 14th August	Honiara, Solomon Islands: Forum Fisheries agency	- FFA / PMU; - Solomon Islands government - Solomon Islands fisheries sector - others as available
15th August (Thursday)	Travel from Honiara (Solomon Islands) to Brisbane (Australia)	
16th August (Friday)	Travel from Brisbane (Australia) to Wellington (New Zealand)	

ANNEX 6.6: PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Day / date	Person	Gender	Agency / role	Notes
Tuesday 6th August	Day 1 – FFA prep meeting	-----		Chair introduces MTR
	Pamela Maru	Female	Cook Islands Head of the Fisheries Agency	Preliminary intro discussion
	Lars Olsen	Male	TA consultant for SPG	
	Short group discussion: Solomon Islands; Fiji; Tonga	Group of Male and Female.		Provided info on appropriate in-country contacts
	Sangaa Clark		CEO – PNAO	Interview
	Les Clark	Male	TA consultant to PNAO	
	Marina Abas	Female	FFA – project funded – climate change adviser	Interview
	Graham Pilling	Male	SPC (FAME) – Chief Scientist	Interview
Wednesday 7th August	Pamela Maru	Female	Cook islands full discussion	Added interview
	Berry Muller; Beau Bigler	Both Male	RMI delegation	Interview
	Ludwig Kumoru	Male	FFA	Interview
Thursday 8th August	Benthly Sabub	Male	PNG	Interview
	Poi Okesene	Male	Niue	Interview
	Jamel James	Male	FSM	Interview
	Zilah Oiterong-Chin	Female	Palau	Interview
	Fulitua Tealei	Female	Tuvalu	Interview
	Marina Abas	Female		Interview
Friday 9th August	Lucy Joy; Ajay Arudere ; +1	Female; Male	Vanuatu	Interview
	Hugh Walton	Male	SPC ex-FFA	Virtual Interview – joint discussion with Team Leader
	Molly Amosa	Female	Samoa, Director of Fisheries	Interview
	Travel overnight (delayed)	-----		
Saturday 10th August	Arrive Brisbane midday	-----		
Sunday 11th August	Travel to Solomon Islands (Honiara)	-----		
Monday 12th August	Joint discussion: Lisa Buchanan Martha Mangale	Both Female	Project coordinator Project accounts	Discussion to capture response to Questions from Team Leader
	Pene Nonu Baleinabuli	Male	Director of Corporate Services	Included in FFA compilation note
Tuesday 13th August	Luisa Tagicakibau-Moce	Female	PEUMP project Team Leader	Included in FFA compilation note
	Neil Butler	Male	Internal Auditor	Interview
	Lisa Buchanan	Female	Project coordinator	Discussion to capture response to Questions from Team Leader
Wednesday 14th August	Lisa Buchanan	Female	Project coordinator	
	Manu Tupou-Roosen	Female	FFA D-G	Courtesy call
	Chris Reid	Male	FFA Director Fisheries Development	Courtesy call

Thursday 15th August	Joint discussion Lisa Buchanan + Rose Maebiru Martin	Both Female	Project coordinator Gender & social inclusion advisor	Included in FFA compilation note
	Judy Arumae	Female	[World Bank] PROPER project coordinator	Included in FFA compilation note
	Douglas Aitorea	Male	Solomon Islands Fisheries – Fisheries officer – compliance offshore	Interview
Subsequent discussions by video or email				
	Bubba Cook	Male	WWF	Joint discussion with Team Leader
	Connie Donato-Hunt	Female	M&E specialist contracted to FFA	
	Jeff Kinch	Male	FAO Samoa	
	Mike Savins	Male	FAO Kiribati	
	Valérie Allain	Female	SPC FAME	
	Pio Manoa	Male	FFA – DDG	Joint discussion with Team Leader
	Sofiane Mahjoub	Female	UNDP RTA	
	Bret Hayward	Female	PITIA [former Chair]	
	Lianos Triantifillos	Male	FFA fisheries development officer	By email
	Pierre-Yves Charpentier	Male	PCCOS	Contact by email

ANNEX 6.7: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. Project Document
2. Project Inception Workshop Report
3. Co-financing letters
4. 2023 GEF-PIR
5. 2024 GEF-PIR
6. Evidence of activities (i.e. training attendance, reports)
7. Project site location maps
8. Minutes of WCPFC and other Board Meetings
9. UNDP CPDs
10. Project Operation guidelines
11. Financial and Administration guidelines
12. Monitoring Reports
13. Oversight Mission Reports
14. Quarterly Progress Reports
15. Project SESP documents
16. Annexes of Project document
17. UNDP initiation plans
18. CEO Endorsement letter
19. Co-financing letters.
20. OFMP3 Communication and knowledge sharing, 12 months report.
21. FFA Economic Development indicators s Indicators and statistics 2022 report
22. Conservation and Management Measure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna
23. Geographic area covered by skipjack harvest strategy
24. WCPFC harvest strategy workshop including South Pacific Albacore on track for 2024
25. South Pacific Albacore interim reference point from WCPFC2020 outcomes
26. Geographic area coverage by proposed South Pacific Albacore harvest strategy
27. FFA Climate Change Strategy
28. FFA climate change implementation plan
29. WCCPFC 19 Outcomes document ecosystems and climate indicators
30. Conservation and Management Measure for WCPO Skipjack Tuna
31. FFA Information Management Strategy
32. Direct Beneficiaries –WCPFC Scientific Committee 19 Official participant list.
33. WCPFC20 Summary Record including participant list
34. Direct beneficiaries –WCPFC 20 Summary Record including participation list
35. Direct beneficiaries – Management Options Consultation Meeting FFA Members
36. Direct Beneficiaries -1st PNA Scientific Committee Meeting, annual meeting and VDS meeting participants lists
37. FFA Official meeting May 2024 participants list
38. Tonga – Tuna Fisheries Management Plan
39. Submission of re-drafted Tuna Management Plan to parliament is noted in the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report to Parliament
40. Tuna Management and Development Plan drafting trip report
41. Direct beneficiaries-Solomon Islands NTMDP drafting trip report April 2024
42. Direct Beneficiaries- Solomon Islands NTMDP consultation workshop participant list signed.
43. Direct Beneficiaries- Palau Vessel Day Scheme training
44. Direct Beneficiaries- Marine Spatial Planning Blue Prosperity Workshop participants list
45. Direct Beneficiaries – 2023 Stock Assessment Training Workshops report
46. Direct Beneficiaries – Introductory Stock Assessment Workshop report
47. Direct beneficiaries – Advanced Stock Assessment Workshop – participant list
48. FAD and e-reporting workshop participants list
49. Fiji On-Board ER system training participants list.
50. Tuvalu e-reporting training workshop report
51. Observer agency placement and safety training participants list

52. Palau Marine spatial planning workshop attendee sign off
53. PIRFO training Workshop Report Nadi Dec 2023
54. Direct beneficiaries – CLAW 2024 Workshop Report
55. Tuna Data Workshop 2024 participant list
56. 11th PNA Observer Coordinators Meeting Report
57. PNAO Partnership Agreement
58. PITIA Partnership Agreement
59. SPC Partnership Agreement
60. WWF Partnership Agreement
61. GESI in Fisheries Symposium Outcome document
62. Longline e-reporting TUFMAN2 output
63. MCSWG Outcomes
64. Annual Report on the performance of the E-reporting standards and their application
65. MCSWG Summary Reports of Proceedings.
66. Regional data community of practice –active users on Slack workspace platform
67. 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Workshop Report
68. ROCW24 workshop report
69. TCC Outcome report
70. FFA Regional Catch Documentation Scheme Framework May 2021
71. FFA Regional Port State Measures Frameworks June 2020
72. FFA launches new Electronic Vessel Register and Port State Measures Systems
73. Analysis of the FAD tracking programmes and observer data
74. Annual update on non-entangling and biodegradable FAD trial in the WCPO
75. Fourth arrangement implementing the Nauru Agreement relating to FAD tracking and FAD buoy registration
76. Pacific Island Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management report
77. Direct Beneficiaries – GESAMP workshop report 13-15 Sept 2023
78. CLIOTOP Workshop for Micronekton Task Team
79. GESAMP Working Group 43 – Seattle meeting report
80. FAD retrieval workshop report-Galapagos
81. WCPFC20 Outcomes
82. WCPFC SC19 Outcomes documents
83. FAD workshop meeting record
84. FAD Workshop evaluation summary
85. Training need assessment report
86. SPC paper on diversification of coastal fisheries livelihoods.
87. Communication strategy 2024-27
88. Communication and knowledge sharing
89. Strategy communications workshop report
90. Consultant’s Report OFMP III Stakeholder engagement

ANNEX 6.8: CO-FINANCING TABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financers	Cash/in-kind	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement (US\$)	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of MTR review (US\$)	Due amount	Actual % of Amount Contributed
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	600,000.00	188,222.96	411,777.04	31.37%
Recipient Country Government	Government of PNG	In-Kind	3,683,024.00	1,473,210.00	2,209,814.00	40.00%
		Grant	920,756.00	368,302.00	552,454.00	40.00%
	Government of Fiji	In-Kind	2,994,809.00	600,153.00	2,394,656.00	20.04%
		Grant	750,191.00	150,038.00	600,153.00	20.00%
	Government of Marshall Island	In-Kind	1,836,000.00	734,400.00	1,101,600.00	40.00%
		Grant	459,000.00	183,600.00	275,400.00	40.00%
	Government of Solomon Islands	In-Kind	2,075,484.00	830,194.00	1,245,290.00	40.00%
		Grant	518,871.00	207,548.00	311,323.00	40.00%
	Governments of Cook Islands	In-kind	922,232.00	368,892.00	553,340.00	40.00%
		Grant	230,558.00	92,224.00	138,334.00	40.00%
	Government of Tonga	In-Kind	569,432.00	227,772.00	341,660.00	40.00%
		Grant	142,358.00	56,944.00	85,414.00	40.00%
	Government of Tuvalu	In-Kind	4,212,000.00	1,684,800.00	2,527,200.00	40.00%
		Grant	1,053,000.00	421,200.00	631,800.00	40.00%
	Government of Nauru	In-Kind	752,560.00	301,024.00	451,536.00	40.00%
		Grant	188,140.00	75,256.00	112,884.00	40.00%
	Government of Niue	In-Kind	247,436.00	24,744.00	222,692.00	10.00%
		Grant	61,859.00	98,974.00	-37,115.00	160.00%
	Government of Palau	In-Kind	1,672,000.00	668,800.00	1,003,200.00	40.00%
		Grant	418,000.00	167,200.00	250,800.00	40.00%
	Government of Vanuatu	In-Kind	2,244,776.00	897,910.00	1,346,866.00	40.00%
		Grant	561,194.00	224,478.00	336,716.00	40.00%
	Government of Kiribati	In-kind	1,388,000.00	555,200.00	832,800.00	40.00%
		Grant	347,000.00	138,800.00	208,200.00	40.00%
	Government of Samoa	In-Kind	3,200,492.00	1,280,196.00	1,920,296.00	40.00%
		Grant	800,123.00	320,050.00	480,073.00	40.00%


	Government of Federated States of Micronesia	In-Kind	3,083,868.00	1,194,999.00	1,888,869.00	38.75%
		Grant	770,967.00	308,386.00	462,581.00	40.00%
Others	Pacific Community	In-Kind	11,497,748.00	4,181,380.60	7,316,367.40	36.37%
		Grant	2,352,289.00	940,915.80	1,411,373.20	40.00%
Others	Forum Fisheries Agency	In-Kind	20,012,694.00	14,826,906.00	5,185,788.00	74.09%
		Grant	3,531,652.00	2,616,513.00	915,139.00	74.09%
Others	Parties to the Nauru Agreement	In-Kind	15,567,155.00	5,295,792.00	10,271,363.00	34.02%
		Grant	2,625,000.00	967,639.00	1,657,361.00	36.86%
Others	World Wide Fund for Nature Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association	In-Kind	300,000.00	60,000.00	240,000.00	20.00%
		Grant	130,000.00	65,302.00	64,698.00	50.23%
	Total		92,720,668.00	42,797,965.36	49,922,702.64	46.16%

Annex 6.9: Evaluation Consultant Agreement Document

ANNEX E: EVALUATION CONSULTANT CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREEMENT FORM

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form ¹	
Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System	
Name of Consultant:	<u>Arun Rijal</u>
Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant):	_____
I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.	
Signed at <u>plareonline</u>	 Kathmandu, 22.07.2024
Signature:	_____

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Bruce CHAPMAN

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): A-P Evaluation

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at London UK (Place) on 12 October 2024 (Date)

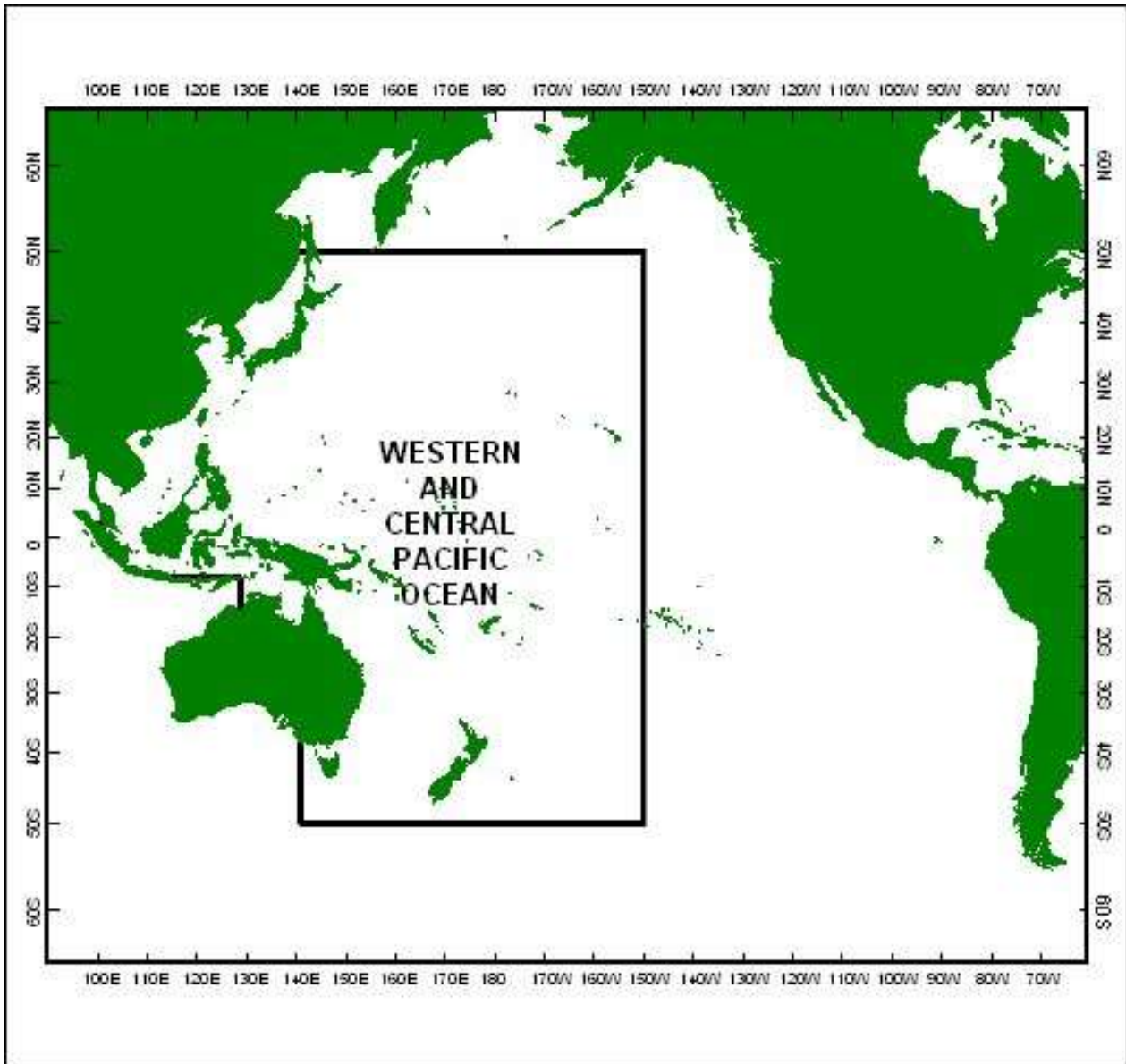


Signature:

¹ <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/100>

ANNEX 6.12: GEF CORE INDICATOR

Core Indicator 5					
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity					
		Expected (hectares)		Achieved (hectares)	
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		3,600 million	3,600 million	3,600 million	
Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):		Expected (number)		Achieved (number)	
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		-	-	0.5	
Indicator 5.4 Marine OECMs supported					
Name of OECM	WDPA ID	Expected (hectares)		Achieved (hectares)	
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
WCPFC		3,600 million	3,600 million	3,600 million	
Core Indicator 7					
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management					
		Number			
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		1	1	1	
Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Rating (Scale 1-4)			
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		3	3	3	<pls select>
		<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>
Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Rating (Scale 1-4)			
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		4	4	4	<pls select>
		<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>
Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Rating (Scale 1-4)			
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		3	3	4	<pls select>
		<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>	<pls select>
Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IW: LEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Rating (Scale 1-4)			
		PIF Stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		2	2	3	<pls select>



ANNEX 6.14: SUMMARY EVALUATION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The Project Result Framework in the Project Document was reviewed in the Inception Report. The present evaluation matrix uses the version contained in the Inception Report and also used by the MTR.

KEY:

GREEN = Indicators show achievement successful at the middle of the Project.

YELLOW = Indicators show achievement nearly successful at the middle of the Project.

RED = Indicators not achieved at the Middle of Project.

HATCHED COLOUR = estimate; situation either unclear or indicator inadequate to make a firm assessment against.

Project Objective: “To mainstream ecosystem-based management approaches and climate change adaptation and resilience into the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.”

Objective							
To mainstream ecosystem-based management approaches and climate change adaptation and resilience into the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean							
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress by end of June 2024	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
INDICATOR 1 Mandatory Indicator 1: Number of Direct Project beneficiaries	Total: 22,257 Male: 11,404 (51%) Female: 10,853 (49%)	The first year of the project the number of direct beneficiaries from participation in project funded meetings and workshops is 23,151, with 11,941 being male and 11,180 being female. This number is calculated by adding the number of direct project beneficiaries this year (894 = 537 males and 327 females) onto the baseline figures. Direct project	Target = Total: 26,000 Male: 13,000 (50%) Female: 13,000 (50%) Increase in beneficiaries as a result of more Pacific SIDS port landings of catches,	Target = Total: 28,000 Male: 14,000 (50%) Female: 14,000 (50%) Increase in beneficiaries as a result of more Pacific SIDS port landings of catches, more SIDS onshore processing and	Direct Beneficiaries Total: 25,567 Men: 13,384 (52%) Women: 12,183 (48%) The total number of beneficiaries by June 2024 was 2416 (59% men, 41% women). The cumulative total of 25,567 is the sum of baseline (22,257) and beneficiaries (894 and 2416 respectively) after project intervention.	MS	Number of beneficiaries is less than the MTR target. But assumed that by the end of the project total targets will be met. In the target, it is not clarified whether the target is including baseline or addition to the baseline.

		<p>beneficiaries are based on attendees at OFMP 3 funded workshops and training events, with details given in Evidence Annex 1.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the number of direct beneficiaries will increase significantly in year two as the early beneficiaries share their knowledge and experience more broadly at the national level.</p> <p>See Evidence Annex 1</p> <p>Meeting and workshop attendees.</p>	<p>more SIDS onshore processing and generally more control by SIDS over fishing, etc.</p>	<p>generally more control by SIDS over fishing, etc.</p>		
<p>INDICATOR 2</p> <p>Mandatory Indicator 2: Number of Indirect Project beneficiaries</p>	<p>Total: 2,82 million</p> <p>Male: 1.45 million</p> <p>Female: 1.37 million</p> <p>(equivalent to 25% of population of 14 PICS as of 2019)</p>	<p>The number of indirect project beneficiaries is a complex calculation based on many factors.</p> <p>The most accurate figure relating to the benefits of fisheries can be found on the detailed 2023 SPC Study on the Benefits of Fisheries 'Benefish'. This study began in September 2022 a summary of which is give as Evidence Annex 1. (a). The full study has not yet been published, so the results of indirect project</p>	<p>Total: 5.65 million</p> <p>Male: 2.87 million</p> <p>Female: 2.78 million</p> <p>(equivalent to 50% of population of 14 Pacific SIDS)</p>	<p>Total: 8.47 million</p> <p>Male: 4,32 million</p> <p>Female: 4.15 million</p> <p>(equivalent to 75% of population of 14 Pacific SIDS)</p>	<p>The project has directly contributed to the sustainable management of skipjack (see indicator 5). The purse-seine fishery is primarily based on skipjack. The beneficiaries of the purse-seine fishery includes all Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu) as well as the Cook Islands. The sustainable management of skipjack, therefore directly contributes to a sustainable</p>	<p>S</p>

		<p>beneficiaries cannot be calculated at this time.</p> <p>See: Evidence Annex 1. (a). Summary of Benefish study 2023.</p>			<p>economic flow (benefits), including access fee revenues, for these countries.</p> <p>The project has also directly contributed to the sustainable management of South Pacific Albacore (see indicator 5). Albacore is the primary species caught in the longline fisheries in the waters of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Therefore, the sustainable management of South Pacific Albacore directly contributes to a sustainable revenue stream, including access fee revenues, for these countries.</p> <p>Therefore almost all populations of all Member countries, with the exception of Niue, are indirectly benefitting from project support (13 Pacific SIDS).</p>		
<p>INDICATOR 3</p> <p>Core Indicator 5:</p> <p>Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity</p>	<p>Fisheries management practices have maintained a sustainable tuna fishery to date but improvements are urgent in the context of an ecosystem-based approach to keep the 4 target species within this 'sustainability' framework within</p>	<p>The sustainable Harvest Strategy and associated Targets and Limits was adopted for the skipjack Fishery in December 2022, so for one out of four fisheries.</p> <p>The adoption of skipjack management procedures occurred as part of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission 19 meeting (WCPFC19) in December 2022.</p>	<p>Adoption of sustainable Harvest Strategies and associated Targets and Limits for at least two of the four major tuna stocks applying to the EEZs of all FFA SIDS throughout the 3,600 million hectare area</p>	<p>3,600 Million hectares of EEZ and territorial waters under improved management with adopted sustainable harvest strategies and enhanced monitoring strategies</p>	<p>Adoption of sustainable harvest strategy and associated targets and limits for skipjack tuna, one of the four major tuna stocks, occurred in December 2022 (CMM2022-01). The management area for skipjack covers the WCPFC Convention area 6.98 B Ha.</p> <p>Adoption of a harvest strategy and associated targets and reference points for a second tuna stock, South Pacific Albacore, is on track and scheduled to be adopted by the WCPFC in December 2024. This management procedure will cover an area of 7.58 B Ha. An interim Target Reference Point (iTRP) was</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Sustainable harvest strategy is adopted in only one Tuna stock while target was at least 2 tuna stock. But second strategy is on track so may complete soon.</p>

	<p>the 3,600M ha area</p>	<p>The harvest strategy proposal for the North-Pacific Albacore from Northern Committee 18 (NC18) was also adopted at WCPFC19. Work continues to progress in line with the harvest strategy workplan adopted at WCPFC19 for all four fisheries.</p> <p>As way of explanation to the process, ongoing improvements to ecosystem-based oceanic fisheries management and harvest strategies occur via the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The Commission supports three subsidiary bodies: the Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Northern Committee. Each of these committees meet once during each year. The meetings of the subsidiary bodies are followed by a full session of the Commission.</p> <p>The WCPFC Convention seeks to address problems in the management of high seas fisheries resulting from unregulated fishing, over-capitalization, excessive fleet capacity, vessel re-flagging to escape controls, insufficiently</p>			<p>adopted at WCPFC20 in December 2023.</p> <p>The adoption of a harvest strategy and associated targets and reference points is on track for the South Pacific Albacore (SPA) fishery. SC20 in August 2024 will agree on the operating models for the SPA Management Strategy Evaluation and provide advice to inform the review of the South Pacific albacore tuna Target Reference Point. Under the Harvest Strategy workplan, the harvest strategy for SPA is scheduled to be adopted by the WCPFC in December 2024.</p> <p>The South Pacific Group (partly funded by OFMP3) and Australia tabled a proposal for an interim Target Reference Point (iTRP) for SPA at the WCPFC20 meeting. This iTRP was adopted, and will feed into the Management Procedure to be agreed in 2024 (see South Pacific Albacore - interim reference point from WCPFC20 outcomes). This management procedure will cover an area of 7.58 B Ha (see South Pacific Albacore Management area - Map).</p> <p>SPC is preparing information on Target Reference Points (TRPs) for yellowfin and bigeyeTuna, to be considered by the 20th Scientific Committee (SC20) in</p>		
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		<p>selective gear, unreliable databases and insufficient multilateral cooperation in respect to conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.</p> <p>The Project supports the inputs of The Pacific Community (SPC) into the WCPFC Science Committee. The Project also supports FFA coordination of inputs into the annual pre-WCPFC FFA Management Options Consultation (MOC) Meeting each year. The MOC meeting is focused on preparation of the FFA Chairs letter to the WCPFC regarding FFA Members priorities for ongoing improvements to ecosystem-based oceanic fisheries management and harvest strategies. With the project supported inputs to FFA Members in the WCPFC processes – The MCS Working Group, WCPFC Science and Committees as well as the MOC meeting noted above and the annual WCPFC meeting.</p> <p>The project target of having 3,600 Million hectares of EEZ and territorial waters under improved management with</p>			<p>August 2024. The Scientific Committee will provide recommendations for TRPs for yellowfin and bigeye for consideration by WCPFC 21. Under the Harvest Strategy Workplan TRPs for yellowfin and bigeye are scheduled to be adopted by the Commission in December 2024.</p> <p><i>The project contributed to these activities through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Co-funding the South Pacific Group, who tabled the interim target reference point for South Pacific Albacore.</i> • <i>Management support and advice to Members through the OFMP 3 funded Fisheries Management Advisors (FFA) at WCPFC and associated meetings, as well as national level support.</i> <p><i>Scientific support and advice to WCPFC Scientific Committee and Members through the project funded SPC Climate Change Scientist and National Fisheries Scientist.</i></p>		
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		<p>adopted sustainable harvest strategies and enhanced monitoring strategies is essentially to support ongoing actions to ensure the existing WCPO tuna fisheries which are currently assessed as being sustainable harvested (See Evidence Annex 2 (a) The Great Green Tower, Stock Assessments and Governance Processes) remain assessed as sustainable on an ongoing basis. The key strategies to achieve that is to continue to support the current WCPFC input processes supported under the project.</p> <p>See:</p> <p>Evidence Annex 2.</p> <p>FFA Chair Letter to WCPFC Chair re FFA Members priorities for WCPFC 19</p> <p>Evidence Annex 2 (a) The Great Green Tower, Stock Assessments and Governance Processes</p> <p>And Evidence Annex 3</p> <p>WCPFC 19 Outcomes</p>					
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<p>INDICATOR 4</p> <p>Core Indicator 7:</p> <p>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p>	<p>Western Pacific Warm Pool (Large Marine Ecosystem):</p> <p>TDA = Adopted</p> <p>SAP - Adopted</p> <p>Critical need for the implementation of a SAP that Mainstreams Climate Change and Ecosystem-Based Approaches into the Management of the Migratory Fish Stocks(which are the only truly transboundary concern in this primarily' open ocean' LME and across the widely dispersed, associated SIDS</p>	<p>The Project supports an improved ecosystem based approach to fisheries management across the totality of the WCPFC oceanic fishery</p> <p>This is achieved through Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), tuna science and climate change and related fisheries management strategies.</p> <p>The annual project funded MOC meeting provides the forum for Pacific SIDS to identify their common goals in the annual WCPFC meeting process and present a united combined letter to the WCPFC Chair to address the full commission membership and audience.</p> <p>In the project year to June 2023, FFA Members consolidated perspectives on key priorities for WCPFC 19 which we considered at FFA Management Options Consultation, endorsed by FFC 125, and forwarded to the WCPFC Chair in advance of WCPFC 19 (December 2022, Da Nang, Vietnam).</p>	<p>Development of an ecosystem approach to fisheries along with climate change adaptation strategies as part of SAP implementation that recognises the LME component (Pacific Warm Pool LME) alongside the WCP Ocean area and associated FFA Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>An ecosystem approach to fisheries aligned with a climate change adaptation approach adopted jointly by the Pacific SIDS covering the area of WCPO and Pacific Ocean Warm Pool LME (which covers 2000 - 4000 million hectares - varying with season and annually)</p>	<p>Two new commitments were endorsed by PSIDS and broader WCPFC membership adopting an ecosystem approach to cooperatively manage fisheries with climate change adaptation strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FFA Climate Change Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministerial endorsement by FFA members covering 17 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (August 2023). o FFA Climate Change Implementation Plan endorsed by Fisheries Officials covering 17 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (May 2024). 2. Mainstreaming ecosystem and climate change indicators into management decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The WCPFC agreed to including climate change as a standing agenda item at the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (Scientific Committee, Northern Committee and Technical Committee), and consider ecosystem and climate indicators in management decisions (December 2022, outcomes document paragraphs 50-51). This decision covers all the highly-migratory stocks the WCPFC is concerned with, including the four major tuna species (skipjack, bigeye, 	<p>S</p>	
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		<p>First steps towards the revision of the Tropical Tuna Measure among FFA Members, which was tasked for 2023 during WCPFC19.</p> <p>Members perspectives well received at WCPFC 19 with positive progress on harvest controls, a renewed Tropical Tuna Measure, the application of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the advancement of ER and EM and associated data standards and the adoption of vessel crew labour standards.)</p> <p>See:</p> <p>Evidence Annex 2. FFA Chair letter to WCPFC Chair – WCPFC 19 – 2022</p> <p>Evidence Annex 2(a).</p> <p>The Great Green Tower, Stock Assessments and Governance Processes</p> <p>Evidence Annex 3. WCPFC 19 Outcomes</p>			<p>yellowfin and albacore) and billfish species including marlin and swordfish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To continue furthering this work WCPFC agreed to develop a Climate Change Work Plan, with a view to taking this to WCPFC21 (December 2024) for consideration. The work plan development is co-led by Republic of Marshall Islands and the United States. <p><i>The project contribution was for the development of the FFA Climate Change Strategy, and associated implementation plan and MERLA framework led by the FFA Fisheries Management Adviser funded under the project. The project funded Fisheries Management Adviser (FFA) is assisting the development of the Climate Change workplan for WCPFC.</i></p>		
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Outcome 1.1

Adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources with an emphasis on response to climate change impacts and focusing on the benefit to the PICs in order to maintain the current 100% sustainability of all four WCP tuna stocks representing some 3 million mt annual catch

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
INDICATOR 5: Adoption of suite of improved management strategies including improvements in monitoring and reporting (at-sea and Port-based) focusing on ecosystem-based harvest strategies (linked to vessel-day schemes or catch limits based on ecosystem considerations)	Current management strategies still limited and primarily species base rather than ecosystem based with High seas fisheries inadequately monitored	Harvest strategies have been identified and a Indicative Harvest Strategy Work plan has been agreed and adopted under WCPFC19. See: Evidence Annex 13 - WCPFC Indicative Harvest Strategy Workplan 2022, adopted	Harvest Strategies identified and adopted for target species and agreed for EEZ and well developed for further advancement in HS applications of targets and limits	New Harvest strategies in place for the fishery (with active monitoring) providing effective coverage of management including VDS or catch limits and monitoring of Harvest Strategy outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two ecosystem-based management strategies have been adopted to date, including one harvest strategy by WCPFC (December 2022), and the FFA Climate Change Strategy (August 2023). Three additional strategies are on track to be endorsed by Ministers in July 2024, having been discussed by Fisheries Officials in May 2024. • The harvest strategy and associated limits for skipjack tuna was adopted by the WCPFC in December 2022. A harvest strategy for South Pacific Albacore is on track to be adopted in December 2024. • The FFA Climate Change Strategies (August 2023) and Implementation Plan (May 2024) have been endorsed by FFA Members. • Three additional management strategies (Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy 2024-2029; FFA Information Management Strategy; and the Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy) are on track for endorsement by FFA Members at the July 2024 Ministerial meeting. • The project directly contributed to the development of the FFA Climate Change Strategy, and associated implementation plan and MERLA framework led by the FFA Fisheries Management Adviser funded under 	S	

					<p>the project. Scientific support and advice to WCPFC Scientific Committee and Members through the OFMP 3 funded SPC Scientists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project directly contributed to the attendance of SPC and FFA scientific and management advisors at key meetings to support members consideration of ecosystem-based management strategies from which 377 people were directly benefited (58% male, 42% female): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation at the 19th WCPFC Scientific Committee Meeting – scientific advice and analysis to inform regional management decisions benefited 199 people (110men and 89 women) - Participation at WCPFC20 benefited 456 people (256 men, 191 women) - Management Options Consultation Meeting with FFA Members – 59 people (35 men, 24 women). - 1st PNA Scientific Committee Meeting, PNA Annual Officials Meeting and 13th VDS Technical Committee bringing together PNA Members to agree people (31men and 20 women). - 133rd FFC Officials Annual Meeting (FFC133) held in Nauru from 6-10 May. Endorsed the implementation plan for the Climate Change Strategy, and progressed three additional strategies for Ministerial endorsement in July – 68 people (43 men, 25 women). 	
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					❖ Work on furthering harvest strategies across the WCPFC is supported by a range of donors and partners, including WCPFC and MFAT (SPC science and capacity development). The development of the additional three FFA strategies are funded by the range of other projects.		
INDICATOR 6: Development and implementation of national level management plans and policies in support of adaptive management practices and processes that can react to climate change impacts and harvest strategy targets & triggers	National Tuna Management and Development Plans in place across FFA members but all in need of strategic support ranging from review and revision to institutional capacity building and policy development and implementation technical assistance.	One of the fourteen National Tuna Management and Development Plans (TFMDP) was finalized for Tonga in 22-23 with implementation begun on November 12 2022. National Tuna Management and Development Plans are also under review for four further plans (Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru). The project target is for management plan review for three national plans each year. The TFMDP status summary table is provided in Evidence Annex 4. See: Evidence Annex 4. Updated TFMDP status table	8 of the 14 PICS with re-drafted NTMDPs embracing the adaptive ecosystem and either adopted or under consideration by government. Policy development and application enhanced in at least 8 countries. 50% (7) of countries implementing their NTMDPs	100% (14) of countries implementing their re-drafted NTMDPs with a full ecosystem management-based approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-drafting on NTMDPs is completed for four of 14 PICS (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga), including one with Ministerial endorsement (Tonga) and others in the final Ministerial sign-off stage. Four NTMDPs are currently under review (Cook Islands, Niue, PNG and Vanuatu), and six have not yet started (<u>Behind the MTR target</u>). • 24 direct beneficiaries were supported under this indicator (56% men, 44% women) through: • Solomon Islands NTMDP consultation workshop -24 people (14men, 11 women). • The project directly contributed to the inclusion of and/or advice on climate change for each NTMDP through the project funded Fisheries Management Adviser (Climate Change) at FFA. The project also contributes to the scientific advice SPC provides for each NTMDP through the project funded National Fisheries Scientist. 	MS	Target of re-drafting of NTMDPs is not achieved (only 4 redrafting completed and 4 in review stage, remaining 6 not started yet by MTR point. Policy development in what subjects? No development of policies and application in at least 8 countries.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Midterm target of 8 PICTs with redrafted NTMDPs is unlikely to be achieved but hope to complete by the end of the project.</i> ❖ National consultations, support and advice to develop and implement NTMDPs are funded through a multiple other funding sources and projects. 	
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Outcome 1.2
Improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management at both the national and regional level as well as to expand opportunities for Pacific SIDS engagement in fisheries markets

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
INDICATOR 7: Number of staff (disaggregated by males and females) that have undergone training and built capacity on fisheries management techniques including monitoring/reporting and MCS	National reports have identified limited number of adequately trained staff per country – insufficient to manage new/improved fisheries management requirements (VDS, Harvest strategy assessments, MCS etc). Adequate staff often exist but do not have	In 2022-23 154 participants (72 female, 82 male) received training through the SPC Stock Assessment Workshops. These workshops build the capacity of Member countries fisheries staff on fisheries management information and techniques to improve fisheries management across the 14 Member SIDS. 0 people currently received MCS Training for 2022-23. However, an ongoing FFA training program is planned and being developed and included in the annual workplan and	Number of trained staff increased by approximately 2 individuals on average per Pacific SIDS	Number of trained staff increased by approximately 4 individuals on average per Pacific SIDS	The total number of staff that have undergone training and built capacity in fisheries management, including monitoring, reporting or MCS, in the recent year is 483 (63% men, 37% women). Ranging from 2 to 47 staff per PSID, with an average of 11 individuals per Pacific SID. These training and capacity building included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau Vessel Day Scheme Training -11 people (6men, 5 women) • Marine Spatial Planning Blue Prosperity Workshop – 65 people (34 men, 31 women) i) Introductory Stock Assessment Workshop -21people (15men, 6women). ii) Advanced Stock Assessment Workshop -19 people (8men, 11women). 	S	Target does not specify in which subject staff should be trained. Cumulative number of trained staff in different subject considered completion of the target.

	appropriate training or support	<p>budget commencing in 2023-24.</p> <p>The FFA training program to be funded by the project is under the management of the FFA training manager. The program is proposed to cover three qualifications, Two of these are existing FFA courses for Fisheries Observer and MCS Officer training. These two courses will be delivered in year two. The third program is for fisheries management training which is also planned for delivery in year 2.</p> <p>The PNAO training program in 2022-23 supported 59 participants to complete training in Electronic Reporting and the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS).</p> <p>A summary of this training is given in Evidence Annex 1. List of Project Meetings and Attendees – Year 1</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNAO FAD and E-Reporting Workshop – 43 people (30 men, 13 women) • Fiji On Board e-reporting system training – 40 people (26men, 14women) • Tuvalu training focusing on e-reporting -13 people (8men, 5 women) • PNA Observer agency placement and safety training -20people (20men) • Palau Marine Spatial Planning Workshop – VDS training -61 people (33men, 28women) • Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) Training -24 people (all men). • Regional Climate Awareness Workshop (CLAW) -104 people (60men, 44 women) • Regional Tuna Data Workshop 2024 – 34 people (14men, 20 women) • Observer Coordinators Meeting – 28 people (24 men, 4 women) <p>Project provided direct support either through funding participants/trainers mainly from FFA, SPC or PNAO staff.</p>		
INDICATOR 8: Regional Project Stakeholder/Partnership Engagement Programme	Existing partnership programmes due to lapse and/or not addressing the needs of this	In the first quarter of 2022-23 FFA worked with four Project Partners to develop Partnership Agreements. These agreements, under annex 5, clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of	Stakeholder/Partnership Programme up and running with specific delivery through partners and stakeholders on	Stakeholder/Partnership Programme adopted for the region which has successfully delivered support at the technical and business level to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four formal partnership agreements are in place between FFA and SPC, PNAO, WWF and PITIA. Informal agreements are in place with FAO and the South Pacific Group. All partnerships are supporting the needs of the project and join delivery to 	S	

<p>implemented through agreements with various sector and institutions and delivering technical and business level support to Pacific SIDS on improving management and benefits from domestic fisheries, support scientific and technical studies related to ecosystem management and climate change adaptation as well as MCS</p>	<p>Project in the context of maintaining sustainability of fisheries and livelihoods in the face of climate change and associated impacts</p>	<p>the parties including the outputs that the partners will contribute to. These agreements are signed and in place between FFA and each of the four partners being SPC, PNAO, WWF and PITIA.</p> <p>These agreements ensure that Project Partners are fully aware of their areas of responsibility under the project. Each agreement clearly defines each partners role under the project.</p> <p>Consideration is currently being given to the possible development and signing of a new project partnership agreement with the South Pacific Group to consolidate project support to the SPG meeting program.</p> <p>See:</p> <p>Evidence annexes</p> <p>5 (a) LOA – FFA and SPC</p> <p>5 (b) LOA – FFA and PNAO</p> <p>5 (c) LOA – FFA and WWF</p> <p>5 (d) LOA – FFA and PITIA</p>	<p>business expansion in the domestic fisheries sector and on priority technical and scientific studies and data capture driving adaptive management processes</p>	<p>the Pacific SIDS via at least 3 training activities and 3 guidance documents which are providing adequate information to support adaptive management decisions related to changes in the ecosystem, especially in relation to climate change</p>	<p>improve management and benefits from fisheries, including technical and scientific studies and data capture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership with SPC delivers priority technical and scientific studies and data capture, which is then used by FFA to drive adaptive management process. The Partnerships with PNAO and WWF deliver on business expansion by adapting management to include innovative science. • There are also informal partnerships in place and developing between the Project and FAO as well as the South Pacific Group. Partnership with FAO has led to joint delivery of the recent livelihood and food security work under indicators 14 and 15. Partnering with the South Pacific Group (SPG) has led to support for their meeting schedule and work on the South Pacific Albacore Management Procedures. • FFA partnered with SPC to host the inaugural Gender and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Symposium in April 2024. This event paved the way for ongoing collaboration between the two organisations. The symposium resulted in three key areas for joint focus: improving gender data for informed policy and investment decisions, value-adding initiatives and undertaking a regional study on gender-based violence in Pacific fisheries. It was attended by 55 participants (13men, 42 women). 		
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>No partnership made on expansion in the domestic fisheries sector.</u> <p>The GESI Symposium was jointly funded by OFMP 3 along with the EU-funded PEUMP, DFAT-funded Pacific Women Lead Programme and MFAT-funded Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme.</p>		
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Outcome 2.1

Improved monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch (transshipping, landing and marketing), MCS and data analysis aiming to further reduce IUU fishing below the current already low 6.5% (measured level as of latest year, 2019)

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
INDICATOR 9: Effective implementation of improved mechanisms and coverage for monitoring and catch documentation including e-monitoring of catch and catch documentation (on board and in-port) in Pacific	Inadequate mechanisms and technology currently in use for monitoring of catch and bycatch both at-sea (especially in relation to transshipment) and in-port. E-reporting in place for purse seine fishery but limited application across the longline fishery. E-	Electronic Reporting has been increasingly adopted in Purse Seine fisheries from 29.6% of trips in 2017 to 43.3% in 2021, 66.2% in 2022 and 88.5% in 2023 to date. There is also progress with Electronic Reporting in regional longline fisheries from 2017 levels sitting at 2% of trips and increasing to 13.1% in 2021, 11.1% in 2022 and 15.6% in 2023 to date. The FFA Electronic Monitoring Policy was adopted in 2020 and guided EM development.	E-reporting adopted in longline fishery in 50% of Pacific SIDS fleets. Observer E-reporting 75% in place. High seas fishing and transshipment E-reporting advanced as mandatory. E-monitoring on all EEZ operations in 50% of Pacific SIDS EEZs and 50% of high seas	E-reporting standard practice against 100% WCPFC purse seine fishing and 70% of longline fishing. E-reporting either adopted or very well advanced as mandatory on all high seas operations. E-monitoring either adopted or very well advanced as a standard requirement throughout FFA and WCPO migratory fish stock areas.	E-reporting coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longline Fishery – 50% of Pacific SIDS fleets • Purse seine fishery -100% for all PS vessels operating in PNA waters • Observer e-reporting coverage - 40% of vessels in the WCPFC area. <i>(Below target)</i> • More than 70% of transshipment reports submitted by all CCMs were directly entered (e-reported) in 2022. • In response to the decrease in Observer number post COVID, in November-December 2023 the project supported the facilitation of the Certificate IV Training and 	MS	Observer e-reporting coverage is below target. At regional level reporting is not regular so target is beyond control.

<p>SIDS EEZs and high seas</p>	<p>monitoring on trial across and in early implementation in five countries.</p> <p>Baseline for Electronic Reporting - Trials in 15 countries, 226 purse seine vessels, 207 longline vessels. (SPC July 2020 quoting from http://www.wcpfc.int/node/46590)</p> <p>Baseline for Electronic monitoring – 5 countries; 73 LL vessels; 7144 Fishing sets analysed (July 2020 SPC from Summary on E-reporting on LL and PS vessels https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11687)</p>	<p>However, the project EM support work plan has yet to be developed. This matter will be raised for consideration by the next Project Steering Committee in October and EM program support will potentially be a target activity in project year 2.</p> <p>In addition, progress in Electronic Reporting has been hindered by COVID impacts on Observer deployment.</p>	<p>operations and well advanced as mandatory on all high seas operations.</p> <p>Catch documentation schemes required and enforced on all EEZ fishing operations through port state monitoring and compliance (active in 50% of SIDS)</p> <p>Catch Documentation Schemes drafted and under negotiation for High Seas fisheries</p>	<p>Catch documentation schemes required and enforced in all Pacific SIDS EEZs</p> <p>Catch Documentation Schemes operational for High Seas Fishing Fleets in WCPO area</p> <p>Electronic Monitoring Vessel Target – 200 Longlines vessels and all high seas carrier vessels equipped with E-Monitoring in 10 countries</p> <p>Electronic Reporting Vessel Target – ALL PS vessels; 500 longline vessels</p>	<p>Assessment course (coded CET4) delivered by the University of South Pacific (USP) to Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) Trainee Trainers. The purpose of this course was to help Members rebuild the number of qualified PIRFO Observers by having more locally based trainers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project directly funded training, workshop, data analysis practices, participation in workshops etc. and from these a total of 573 direct beneficiaries were supported including 61% men and 39% women through: <p>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG): 59 people (44 men, 15 women): The MCSWG occurred in March 2024, supported by OFMP 3. This annual workshop aims to advance Members’ priorities to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and advance ER and EM amongst Members. The MSCWG made significant progress this year in regards to: the PSM development plan, the Regional information management Facility, ER and EM, and Observer livelihood and safety.</p> <p>Regional data support/community of practice: As part of OFMP 3 support, SPC</p>		
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					<p>also maintains a Slack help desk for anyone using the SPC databases of eReporting apps for tuna data collection, management and analysis. This enables Members to access help and technical support, capacity building and bespoke data queries for their fishery. The helpdesk operates, with 65 current active users (33men, 32 women).</p> <p>Participants at the 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Workshop (7 GFEW): 148 people (86 men, 62 women). FFA gave keynote presentations at the leading conference bringing together experts in fisheries and oceans governance.</p> <p>Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROC24): 43 people (38men, 5 women). The ROC Workshop is an annual gathering for national observer programme coordinators and managers from the FFA member countries</p> <p>19th Session of Technical Compliance committee for WCPFC: 258 people (150 men, 108 women). FFA Fisheries Management Advisors and SPC scientists supported Members to advance their regional and national priorities for consideration. OFMP 3 funded SPC Data Analyst presented on status of stocks and climate change.</p>	
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					<p>The project directly funds the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Workshop held each year bringing together all Member countries to progress E-Monitoring and E-Recording as well as well as other issues related to MSC. The project directly supports the data community of practice and support through the project funded SPC Data Analyst. Capacity development results reported are also those directly supported by the project. The project also funded Members and key FFA staff to participate in the 7GFEW.</p> <p>❖ The MCSWG this year was jointly funded by this project and an MFAT-funded project.</p>		
<p>INDICATOR 10: Improvements in vessel and catch tracking to ensure catch provenance and market transparency and raise standards in line with supporting a sustainable fishery</p>	<p>Regional CDS Framework in draft.</p> <p>Various CDS systems in place including the PNA purse fishery but limited and Ad hoc ‘chain-of-custody’ and tracking mechanisms for catches (hook/net-to-market) in place in other fisheries, some purse seine fleets</p>	<p>In 2021, FFA Members adopted the Regional CDS Framework, which is a set of minimum guidelines aimed at assisting in the development, implementation, and harmonization of CDS for Pacific caught tuna at national, sub-regional, and regional levels. The framework considers Internationally accepted principles and guidelines, as well as regional priorities and needs, to ensure that the development and implementation of CDS is</p>	<p>Regional CDS framework endorsed by Pacific SIDS and new mechanisms for tracking and confirmation of provenance through chain of custody systems negotiated through FFA and under trial</p>	<p>Standard tracking and chain-of-custody introduced as and where feasible into licenced fishery in all 14 Pacific SIDS and adopted by the WCPFC for high seas fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new online systems were launched in March 2024 providing new mechanisms to improve vessel and catch tracking. These systems support the implementation of the Regional Catch Documentation Scheme Framework and Regional Port State Measures (PSM) Framework. 7. The new Electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) system operationalizes the Regional PSM Framework (with the support of other project) and is aligned with international standards set by the WCPFC (CMM 2017-02) and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. 	<u>S</u>	

	<p>and trialled for the longline fishery.</p>	<p>effective, consistent, and interoperable.</p> <p>As noted above, the development of CDS systems across FFA Members under an FFA strategy has been the subject of an ongoing New Zealand funded CDS support project.</p> <p>In reflection of this, project support for CDS promotion has yet to commence and will be guided by the directive of the Forum Fisheries Committee. This will be reviewed by the next Project Steering Committee meeting in October.</p>			<p>8. The new Online Vessel Registration System (https://vessel-register.ffa.int) streamlines the registration process for fishing vessel operators so they can now directly apply, upload documents, and monitor their application status online, significantly reducing manual processing times and improving the accuracy of vessel registry information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool to assist with chain of custody is being trialed in partnership with WWF. This has involved using available data to configure a chain of custody online model and the development of a dashboard to identify discrepancies in the supply chain through visualization. Once the data has been inputted the model will be tested to ensure traceability is accurate. • <u>Catch documentation schemes requirements and enforcement on all EEZ fishing operations is not done. Catch Documentation Scheme drafting and placing under negotiation is not done.</u> • Work on CDS and PSM were funded by New Zealand MFAT and facilitated by the FFA Secretariat. 		
<p>Outcome 2.2</p>							

Greater monitoring and control of FADs to optimise returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
<p>INDICATOR 11:</p> <p>Extent of documentation and reduction in bycatch and other ecological impacts from FADs</p>	<p>Poor documentation available on deployment and tracking and limited FAD data being provided by vessel operators (estimated 30-40,000 FAD deployments annually)</p> <p>Weak requirements for FAD design to reduce entanglements and targeting of unnecessary bycatch</p> <p>FAD Buoy Tracking being applied on a voluntary trial basis</p>	<p>FAD log sheets are being provided for more than 90% of FAD sets deployed, however we are experiencing a very low return of these log-sheets, requiring changes to vessel eLogs.</p> <p>More than 90% of FAD buoys in PNA waters are now being tracked however, there are delays and gaps in high seas information.</p> <p>Preparations are being made for the implementation of PNA 4IA FAD Buoy Registration and Tracking from 1 Jan 2024, designed to strengthen FAD management including FAD Buoy legal control and tracking.</p> <p>Purse seine vessel operators are testing materials to replace netting to meet non-entangling requirement from Jan 1, 2024.</p> <p>Selected vessel operators testing bio-degradable FADs.</p>	<p>Introduction of compulsory FAD log-sheets with deployment and FAD design information.</p> <p>Returns from at least 50% of FAD deployments and sets</p> <p>FAD designs being tested in collaboration with private sector and results assessed and discussed formally by PNA, FFA and WCPFC</p> <p>FAD Buoy Tracking information required for PNA waters</p>	<p>100% return of FAD log-sheet from all FAD deployments and sets</p> <p>90% of FAD Buoys tracked</p> <p>New Non-Entangling FAD design requirements being applied throughout the FFA PICS region</p>	<p>The project has directly contributed to support implementation of the fourth PNA Implementing Agreement of FAD Buoy Tracking. The project also provided a portion of the funding for OFP Fisheries Scientist (FADs) who is contributing to testing FAD designs. Consultancy support was also provided to support Members with FAD training and capacity building through PNAO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently PNA FAD logsheet data is being returned for virtually 100% of FAD sets, but revisions are needed to e-logs to apply the FAD logsheet to FAD deployment by purse seine vessels. • FADs that comply with low-entanglement design specifications and using non-entangling materials are required by WCPFC for all FADs deployed from January 2024 (CMM 2021-01 prior to project commencement). Trails for non-entangling and biodegradable drafting FADs have been underway since 2022. These trails are a multi-partner and multi-project coordinated effort, including more than 15 fishing companies. As at July 2023, 180 jelly-FADs had been constructed and 72 deployed as part of Project 110 led by SPC, and 216 	<p>MS</p>	<p>The FAD designs testing is analysed and discussed, testing is going on so the designs are still not ‘routinely implemented’ outside the trials</p>

					<p>constructed and 52 deployed as part of a related project led by ISSF. An update on these trails were presented and formally discussed at the WCPFC Scientific Committee in 2023, including by PNA, FFA and WCPFC members. The trails are ongoing with final analyses and results due for presentation and discussion at the Scientific Committee in 2025. This work has also been published in nine scientific papers, cited in 36 other scientific papers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fourth PNA Implementation Agreement (41A) was adopted on 1 January 2024 relating to FAD tracking and FAD buoy registration. The Parties agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To establish a PNA FAD Buoy Register -To only approve FAD Buoys of certain makes and models and from Services Providers approved by PNA -That only FAD Buoys registered, switched on and activated can be deployed or fished in Parties' waters, or the high seas of WCPFC convention Area east of 130 degrees East and between 20 degrees North and 20 degrees South. <p>This was endorsed by the eight Parties (FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG Solomon Islands and Tuvalu). To support implementation, a FAD Buoy Module has also been developed in FIMS. This</p>	
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					<p>will significantly improve reporting, data and documentation of FAD deployment and tracking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNA also tabled a proposal at SC19 (August 2023) for the development of a WCPFC FAD logsheet compatible with the PNA FAD that would apply throughout the whole WCPFC Convention Area. • FAD design trials are funded by WCPFC and ISSF projects. PNA FAD logsheet data is also funded through other sources. 		
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Outcome 3.1
Strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management responses to climate-induced impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
INDICATOR 12: Implementation of a knowledge capture programme (scientific/technical) for monitoring changes and impacts within the ecosystem related to sustainability of the migratory	Insufficient/inadequate knowledge at the ecosystem level of interactions and impacts that influence/effect management of migratory fish stocks or to be able to support an effective adaptive management	A single, active FFA Regional Platform for effective capture of necessary knowledge/ data has yet to be developed. However, in order to better implement a knowledge capture programme for monitoring changes and impacts within the ecosystem related to migratory tuna stocks, a range of activities have been progressed, including:	A Regional Programme adopted by FFA for effective capture of necessary knowledge/data to support an ecosystem-based fisheries management strategy Role of PCCOS defined and strengthened to	A single, active FFA Regional Platform for effective capture of necessary knowledge/data to support an ecosystem-based fisheries management strategy actively used by FFA and individual Pacific SIDS as part of their Management Plans	Regional ecosystem monitoring programme: This work is led by the Senior Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change Ecosystem Analysis) at SPC, funded through the project. Key results over the project period to date include eight peer reviewed publications with a combined reach of 22 citations and 1,602 reads on researchgate.net alone, ecosystem sampling and data collection on two scientific voyages in the WCPO (WARMALIS 2 in 2022 and WARMALIS 3 in Q3 2023), and the provision of expert scientific advice	S	

<p>tuna stocks and associates species</p>	<p>strategy/mechanisms by the Pacific SIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the development of National Information Management Systems and databases. • Support for the development and annual update of the Country Web Pages (CWP). These pages provide member countries access to a wide range of long term fishery and observer data plots and data. The website provides graphical and tabular summaries of commercial tuna fishery data (including catch, effort, catch rate and fish size data) collected by fisheries departments and available from other authorized sources. The summaries focus on the period 1990 to the present and on commercial fleets licensed to fish tuna. • Development of planning for 2023 tagging and research cruise. • Progress in development of a study on tuna stomach fullness and presentation of results to the 73rd Tuna Conference meeting, Lake Arrowhead, CA, USA, May 2023 	<p>support this Programme</p>		<p>and collaboration both within the WCPO and internationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach of the scientific outputs by the project funded Senior Fisheries Scientist have been wide, with media coverage from one article reporting on the science in the BBC alone receiving over 46,700 views. • The first Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management was organised by PCCOS in September 2023. The event brought together researchers and ocean managers from different disciplines related to ocean science and management. FFA was part of this pool of ocean stakeholders, as were the project funded SPC Scientists, all coming together to guide management alignment and Policy consideration especially in the knowledge management space. This first meeting allowed for strengthening the partnership between the project and PCCOS. • The regional role of PCCOS has been defined to help Pacific Island governments and communities easily access the ocean science and expertise they need to make informed decisions and to protect and sustainably manage ocean resources. “Climate change 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations and participation in a range of meetings including meeting with other tuna RFMOs, attendance at a workshop on Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) data, presentation on ‘Pacific tuna: geopolitics and food security’ during the workshop on ‘Marine security and environmental issues in the south Pacific’ March 2023, Noumea, Contribution to a presentation of the GEF project to the FFA-organised Inaugural regional meeting on climate change in the context of tuna fisheries • Support to research and modelling for forecasting effects from ENSO / 4- Expanded monitoring of biochemical and physical parameters that can identify change in the ecosystem and can trigger adaptive management strategies • Publication of the scientific paper: Peatman, T., Allain, V., Bell, L., Muller, B., Panizza, A., Phillip, N. B., Pilling, G., et al. 2023. Estimating trends and 			<p>science” and “fisheries science” are now included as two of the four pillars of ocean science PCCOS will platform and advocate for. Through the PCCOS platform and closer collaborations developed following the Conference science developed under this indicator will be used to inform easily accessible integrated advice to Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project support to this work was through funding of the lead Senior Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change and Ecosystem Analysis) at SPC. Similarly participation of staff at the PCOSS event was also funded by the project. A total of 124 individuals benefitted directly (59% men, 41% women) from the following activities of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 people participated in the 50th Joint Group of Experts on the scientific aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP- geasmp.org). GESAMP is a group of 15-20 experts/members (19 at the moment) in various domains related to marine environment (chemistry, economics, law, deep-sea mining, pollution, marine debris). Valérie Allain (funded by this project) is the only fisheries scientist in the group. 		
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		<p>magnitudes of bycatch in the tuna fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Fish and Fisheries, n/a. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/faf.12771</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior scientist funded to lead and conduct scientific cruise WARMALIS 2 and 3 conducted in the central Pacific to acquire knowledge for monitoring the pelagic ecosystem including biochemical, physical and biological parameters. • Senior scientist also funded by GEF provided advise on new dashboard developed and made available online (https://ofp-sam.shinyapps.io/ofp-FEMA-climate-dashboard/) to explore climate impacts on tuna at the national and regional levels and also funded to attend 2 workshops on taxonomic standardisation for ecosystem monitoring and assessment attended. There was a major update in March 2023 with changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o “Within EEZ comparison” page now has the 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Collaboration on Marine Top Predators Workshop for Micronekton Task Team: 39 people (19men and 20 women). • 8 people (6men, 2women) attended the 9th World Fisheries Congress and participate in the GESAMP Working Group 43 on sea-based sources of marine litter, 2024. Seattle, WA, USA. • TunaCons 1st International Workshop on Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Retrieval Methods participated by 58 people (37men, 21women). Representatives included the purse seine tuna fishing sector, local authorities, scientists from various oceans, fleet experts, and electronic monitoring specialists. <p>The funding for the two scientific research voyages was from a range of other sources. Partnership and donors for the PCCOS event included NZ MFAT, UN Decade for Ocean Science, the EU and the US Department of State.</p>		
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		<p>addition of Vulnerability assessment table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If user clicks on polygon included in previous assessment, results are shown with colour changes based on assessment level. EEZ, species and assessment is provided for each model. o If user clicks on EEZ polygon or species (YFT) _not_ included in previous assessment, “Not assessed” are returned and colour is shaded light grey. • Key SPC work reported to WCPFC – See (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19406) and PTPP annual report and workplan (https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19408), See: Evidence Annex 8. SPC Trip report – WARMALIS 2 – 2022 					
INDICATOR 13: Extent of use of scientific and technical data capture and	Adaptive Management focusing on improving the wellbeing of the	As addressed under Indicator 6, one of the fourteen National Tuna Management and Development Plans (TFMDP) was finalized for Tonga in	Adaptive Management is demonstrated as effective through implementation of	100% of national Tuna Development and Management Plans are based on an Adaptive Management strategy	• Evidence of the use of data to support adaptive management for socioeconomic welfare was seen in 6 Pacific SIDS (43%) as evidenced through the inclusion of	MS	<i>Adaptive management demonstration effectively through implementation of Tuna Management Plan in 43% SIDS while</i>

<p>knowledge inputs as an adaptive management tool to improve the socioeconomic welfare and long-term wellbeing of the Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>Pacific SIDS in association with sustainable fisheries is not effectively included as part of an overall ecosystem-based management strategy for national fisheries management or by FFA as a standard</p>	<p>2022-23 with implementation begun on November 12 2022.</p> <p>National Tuna Management and Development Plans are also under review for four further plans (Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru). The project target is for management plan review for three national plans each year.</p> <p>The ecosystem based approach is based on adaptive management in oceanic fisheries promoted through FFA operational processes and the Management Options Consultation and FFA Members feed in to annual WCPFC meetings and WCPFC meeting outcomes and the development of TFMDPs.</p> <p>This demonstrates progress towards the adoption of ecosystems based adaptive management strategies</p> <p>It is intended that the project will support the review and revision of 3 – 4 National Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plans per annum.</p> <p>See:</p>	<p>Tuna and Development Management Plans in 50% of Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>that embraces the ecosystem-based management approach and feeds into overall FFA management strategy (and vice versa)</p> <p>Presentations to FFA by Pacific SIDS demonstrate how this Adaptive Management approach has actively improved wellbeing and lifestyles of their peoples/communities</p>	<p>socioeconomic related analysis in Annual Reports –Part 1, to WCPFC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the WCPFC level outcomes achieved include the re-negotiation of the CMM for tropical tuna fisheries to consider social and economic considerations (December 2023), and research into a key set of climate and environmental indicators (August 2023). • Research into a key set of climate and environmental indicators aims to provide key information on which physical properties of the WCPO are approaching climate change on which physical properties of the WCPO are approaching climate change induced tipping points. FFA Member supported these indicators through the WCPFC processes. These indicators will therefore inform harvest strategies going forward and will contribute to an ecosystem approach. • Progress developing an ecosystem approach to fisheries, along with climate change adaptation strategies is also illustrated by the re-negotiation of the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for tropical fisheries in December 2023 at WCPFC 20. This CMM covers skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin stocks. This re-negotiation was to better take wider social and 	<p><i>target was 50% of Pacific SIDS.</i></p>
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		<p>Evidence Annex 2. FFA Chair letter to WCPFC</p> <p>Chair – WCPFC 19 – 2022</p> <p>Evidence Annex 3. WCPFC 19 Outcomes</p> <p>Evidence Annex 4. FFA Members TFMDP status summary</p>			<p>economic considerations into account, as part of the scientific analyses performed and presented by SPC. The importance the WCPFC is placing on this approaches is illustrated by WCPFC20 calling for a review of all CMMs that may be susceptible to be impacted by climate change, with these scheduled to be discussed in August 24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has been undertaken by SPC in collaboration with FFA to improve Country Web Pages (CWPs) that provide detailed and relevant data to each Member Country. In 2024 these webpages have been completely re-coded and updated to ensure data is up-to-date and accessible. • To make the CWPs more user friendly for Members, SPC will also work with a consultant to enhance the data visualisation tools to support data-driven decision-making. This initiative will involve creating Power BI embedded web applications and clout-based R-Shiny dashboards, empowering Members to personalise and analyse their data more independently. • A total of 220 (59% men, 41% women) directly benefited from the activities supported by the project and programs are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in FFA pre-meeting 4th Tropical Tuna 		
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					<p>Measure Workshop which was attended by 22 people (14 men, 8 women) and 30 online (17 men, 13 women).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Tropical Tuna Measures Workshop: 168 people. Technical and scientific support provided to members at the workshop. • The project directly contributed to these results through the scientific support provided on research into climate change indicators by project funded Senior Fisheries Scientist (Climate Change and Ecosystem Analysis) at SPC. Work on Country Web pages was supported by the National Fisheries Scientist funded through the project. Support provided by members to prepare Part 1 reports and associated analysis is provided by the project funded Fisheries Data Analyst at SPC and Member participation at the Tuna Data Workshop. 		
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Outcome 3.2
New strategies in place to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues related to climate change (i.e. improving community subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries)

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
INDICATOR 14: Level of community awareness of the	Pacific SIDS communities have limited awareness and limited	During the course of April the project team commenced consultation with the SPC Coastal Fisheries Team and the	Nearshore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics	FAD deployment by local community fishermen extended to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearshore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics (e.g. tuna) is occurring in 14 of the 14 Pacific SIDS. Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and 	HS	Nearshore FAD deployment by local communities targeting pelagics (e.g. tuna) is

<p>benefits and access to pelagic food sources versus coastal fisheries to reduce pressure on latter</p>	<p>exploitation of or access to pelagic fish as food source. Pressure on coastal fisheries continues to increase</p>	<p>FAO Pacific Regional Office team based in Samoa to discuss the options around possible collaboration in support of an inter-agency workshop on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), community livelihoods and food security. An OFMP 3 activity proposal to FFA was completed and submitted and subsequently endorsed between the parties for implementation.</p> <p>An initial workshop to discuss the development of this program has been scheduled for October, 2023. The workshop will look a region wide strategy to support national administrations to effectively develop, manage and coordinate community-level food security and income generating nearshore FAD programs.</p> <p>The adoption of a nearshore/coastal fisheries community based FAD program across FFA members will enhance both food security and income generation across FFA members communities.</p>	<p>(e.g. tuna) in 5 of the 14 Pacific SIDS</p> <p>Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and processed for local consumption in 3 of the 14 Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>include 10 of the 14 Pacific SIDS</p> <p>Tuna and bycatch landing and processing for communities extended to 8 of the 14 Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>processed for local consumption in 10 of the 14 Pacific SIDS. (<i>Exceeded the target</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training Needs Assessment was completed to determine this current status, as well as future community awareness needs going forward. • In partnership with FAO, a food-security, Livelihoods and Community-based FAD training workshop which was held in November 2023 with 57 participants from 14 Pacific SIDS (44 men, 13 women). The workshop was a multi-agency collaboration, driven by OFMP 3, whilst also harnessing expertise and resources from SPC, FAO and the FFA World Bank PROPER project. The aim workshop aimed to continue to build on, share knowledge and develop the effectiveness of nearshore FAD work from across the Membership. • The project directly contributed to co-funding the workshop and associated activities to identify alternative income options. 	<p>occurring in all 14 Pacific SIDS while the target for MTR point was only 5. Exceeded the MTR target</p>
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		The project funded workshop is the first step under the project towards promoting this target.				
INDICATOR 15: Access to alternative income generation as adaptive response to changes in the ecosystem with particular focus on youth and gender equity	Pacific SIDS livelihoods remain focused on certain traditional activities such as nearshore reef fishing and shoreline collection and across various small-scale commercial sectors and not flexible to changes in socioeconomics related to fishery and climate change	Project activity in relation to this indicator is included in the work planned under INDICATOR 14 in regard to nearshore/coastal FADs, food security and income generation. Further work towards the support for alternative income generation opportunities will be guided by the findings of the FFA 2022 report titled: 'Policy Options to Increase the Contribution of Tuna Fisheries to National Food Security Across FFA Members'	Alternative income options identified for all of the Pacific SIDS with a focus on adaptation to climate change and reduced community dependence on offshore fisheries related employment Training need assessment and exercises provided for 50% of Pacific SIDS	Training provided in 100% of Pacific SIDS for alternative livelihoods and targeting at least 30% women and 50% youth in each Pacific SIDS. Alternative income generating activities from some 10 examples across 5 Pacific SIDS providing lessons and best practices with clear examples related to gender equity and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training needs assessment was completed in November 2023 covering all 14 Pacific SIDS. Alternative income options have been identified for all Pacific SIDS. • From the needs assessment alternative income options identified for all PSIDS as part of the abovementioned Food-security, Livelihoods and Community-based FAD Workshop with participants from all PSIDS. Across the board, post-harvest and processing freshly caught fish was seen as a high priority alternative income and value-added option, as this preserves the value of the fish and the amount that it can be sold for. As fish value rapidly declines when fish are not properly stored and processed, properly processing fish means it does not need to be sold within the day of catch and can be sold at higher-value places such as high-end restaurants. <p>Other alternative income options identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar freezers so fish can be frozen and sold - Other fish preserving mechanisms (drying, bottling) 	S

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alternative fish products (e.g. Samosas, sausages) - Eco-tourism (e.g. turtles. Rays etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following this workshop, SPC presented a paper to the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture on Coastal fisheries livelihood- diversification and food security. • A tuna bottling workshop was undertaken with 18 women as alternative income training. • The workshop was a multi-agency collaboration, co-funded by OFMP 3, FAO and the FFA World Bank PROPER project. Funding for SPC's Coastal Fisheries Development team is from a range of other funding sources. The project also co-funded OFP Fisheries Scientist (FADs) also provides advice to community-based FAD work • <u>Small tuna and bycatch being landed by EEZ fleets and processed for local consumption in 3 of the 14 Pacific SIDS (Not done)</u> 	
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Outcome 4.1
Knowledge Management, Communication and Awareness implemented and outreaching to WCPFC stakeholders as well as the global community

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Level of First PIR	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start		
<p>INDICATOR 16: Consumer-based sustainable management strategies adopted through eco-labelling and certification of fisheries using existing models such as PNA where appropriate</p>	<p>Effective eco-labelling and certification is currently only active in some of the Pacific SIDS (PNA members and Fiji)</p>	<p>At present there are 28 Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified tuna fisheries in the WCPO covering purse seine, longline, pole and line and troll fisheries and all four of the main harvested species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore) across longline, purse seine, pole and line and troll fisheries. Tuna from the WCPO makes up over half of the global commercial tuna catch, and currently 73% of all MSC certified tuna comes from the region.</p> <p>These fisheries were all certified with a time bound condition that requires that fishing nations agree on measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of shared tuna stocks through the development of harvest strategies and control rules. However, this agreement is yet to materialize and the fisheries now face potential exclusion from MSC certification.</p> <p>Project supported work against this indicator has yet to</p>	<p>Eco-labelling lessons and practices captured and reviewed by FFA with a view to replication across all Pacific SIDS</p> <p>Partnerships developed to expand eco-labelling across the Pacific SIDS</p>	<p>Eco-labelling extended and carefully monitored for accuracy and compliance across all 14 Pacific SIDS in close collaboration with partners and private sector</p>	<p>All results reported under this indicator are those directly supported by the project. Through the PNAO/FFA partnership, OFMP 3 supported Pacificall to cover 444 trips of MSC certified tuna (for more information see pacificall.com). The project also funded the three-part series on current practice and lessons learnt about eco-labelling in the Pacific.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are 33 MSC certified tuna fisheries in the WCPO covering purse seine, longline, pole and line and troll fisheries and all four of the main harvested species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore). A further 9 WCPO fisheries are currently in assessment. Tuna from the WCPO makes up over half of the global commercial tuna catch, and currently 58% of all MSC certified tuna comes from the WCPO. MSC review has recommended a 5-year extension of the PNA MSC certification. • To effectively capture eco-labelling and lessons and practices, a three-part series has been developed to document current practices and learnings along the way. This series included interviews and information from PNAO who are leading in this area. 	<p>MS</p>	<p>Partnership for expanding eco-labelling is not done.</p>

		<p>commence and is currently limited to support for PNAO Marine Stewardship Council labelling.</p> <p>Additional project support across eco-labelling will be subject to receipt of national level requests</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key achievement is the continued support of the PNA venture Pacifical. Pacifical is the leading provider of tuna supply chain traceability and verification services in the Pacific Ocean region. Specializing in ensuring transparency and integrity throughout the Pacific tuna supply chain through direct engagement with fishing authorities, Pacifical verifies tuna catches utilizing its Smart Tuna platform. Committed to sustainability and accountability, Pacifical services play a vital role in promoting responsible fishing practices and safeguarding marine ecosystems. PNA Pacifical covered 199 trips of MSC certified tuna in the first 5 months of 2024. 		
<p>INDICATOR 17: Communications Strategy adopted and Experiences, lessons and best practices captured and upscaled/replicated to other RFMO regions and LMEs</p>	<p>The WCPFC/FFA region is the world's only region with a sustainable oceanic fishery. However, the lessons and practices developed here have not as yet been properly captured and distributed as appropriate to other regions,</p>	<p>A Communications Strategy and work plan has been agreed and is under implementation. A communications service provider tender was advertised and a provider selected, who commenced services in project Q3. The provider had a site visit to Honiara for promotional video production and work plan development. Project website reconstruction strategy agreed and nearing completion. The communications provider links to Pacific Journalists has been renewed and project related</p>	<p>A Communications Strategy adopted and delivering outreach and awareness as well as capturing feedback from Project stakeholders</p> <p>Overall Lessons and Best Practices from OFMPI, OFMP II and this current Project as well as from WCPFC and FFA generally are captured in an</p>	<p>OFM L&BP Report readily available and in use globally</p> <p>Various global fisheries (5+) reviewing and adopting (where appropriate) lessons and best practices from the report leading to potential improvements in sustainability. (Report to include a 'sustainability' quantification tracking tool as appropriate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of sharing lessons learnt, PNAO supported a RMI joint venture with a major US retail chain Walmart to continue and expand MSC certified fish supply to US market. An article has been published on the RMI-Walmart agreement, and sharing learning from this with other PNA members. A communications strategy has been adopted and is delivering outreach and awareness activities through Knowledge Management consultant ASA. Progress towards our knowledge management objectives is on track 	MS	<p>Capturing of lessons and best practices in an overall report on sustainable fisheries management in South Pacific is not completed.</p>

	<p>RFMO and LME's globally. This is a huge, missed opportunity for bringing other oceanic fisheries within the sustainable management bracket.</p>	<p>stories and interview options developed and reviewed. Project links to IW Learn re-established and inputs to IW Learn meetings under development</p> <p>Project work on overall Lessons and Best Practices from OFMPI, OFMP II and this current Project as well as from WCPFC and FFA has yet to commence and will start in the second part of Project Year.</p> <p>The Project Knowledge Management work plan includes a suite of stories that are under development for 8 different work plan topic areas. These stories will include interviews and discussion about Best practice approaches to each management issue</p> <p>Once written, these stories will be published on our website, and promoted through Social Media.</p> <p>Evidence Annex 10. OFMP 3 – MOA – Knowledge Management - ASA</p>	<p>overall report on Sustainable Fisheries Management in the South Pacific</p> <p>L&BP Report shared, discussed and employed as appropriate by other regions, LMEs and RFMOs to strengthen and improve sustainability of fisheries in close collaboration with IW:LEARN</p>		<p>with 10,452 individual visitors and 18,464 views to the project website, 16 articles written and published, as well as growth in social media with 6,900 followers on the project Facebook page and 30,700 impressions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the Lessons Learnt report capturing overall lessons and best practices from the three OFMP phases is progressing with 5 draft chapters completed. This will be shared with other RFMO and LMEs though the next international Waters IW: Learn conference in September 2024. • In order to support improved communications, the project hosted a regional communications training workshop on communication strategy and planning in tuna fisheries in July 2023 in Fiji. The Workshop brought together 13 communications professionals (6men, 7 women) from Members to train them in strategic communications. • A round of stakeholder engagement was undertaken with 15 stakeholders (11men, 4women) in May 2024 to provide background information for development of the ESIA, assist in the identification of potential impacts and risks and inform the next stages project implementation. 		
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